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Blackboard Efficiency

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Blackboard Efficiency

A Suggestive Method for the Use of Crayon and Blackboard

By

ROBERT F. Y. PIERCE, D. D.

Author of "Pictured Truth," "Pencil Points for Preacher and Teacher," etc.

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This volume is dedicated to my son and daughter

CHARLES FLETCHER PIERCE

and

ELIZABETH PIERCE FIELDING

and loved ones whose affection and devotion have contributed so largely to a precious home life, making possible many quiet and helpful hours for preparation and service for my world-wide ministries

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST
JESUS
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
R.F.Y.P.

Preface

EFFICIENT blackboarding has come to be such an important factor in our educational work that successful teachers are employing every agency which will arrest the attention, stimulate the thought, and rivet the truth on the mind and heart of the student.

In response to repeated requests of many Sunday-school workers and pastors for another volume on the illustrative methods which have proven helpful in my ministry, I take pleasure in sending out this third book which I trust may be as cordially received and as helpful in its mission as I have abundant reason to believe that "Pictured Truth," and "Pencil Points" and my Bible illustrations in many religious journals have been to preachers and teachers and missionary workers throughout the world.

Teaching through the eye has long been the handmaiden of preaching through the ear. Instructive art has for centuries been the companion of inspiring song. While heaven-born melodies have led to worship, the beauty of form and feature on canvas, though often fanciful, depicting persons and scenes of Scripture and oriental life and lands, have led multitudes to devotion and a deeper knowledge and appreciation of Scripture truths.

The Cross of Calvary has been the most impressive object lesson throughout the Christian world.

We present herewith no "untried theories," nor elaborate pictures, but simple outlines, symbols,

Library

sketches, forms, lines and combinations which may be quickly drawn to stimulate the imagination and aid in imparting the truths of the lesson. These exercises cover a wide range of illustrative work and will serve as hints to the teacher, pastor or Christian worker, enabling them to invent, expand or multiply the illustrations as occasion may require.

For many years thousands of ministers, teachers, missionaries, leaders of Young People's and Children's Meetings, etc., have been using my illustrations in their varied ministries, presenting spiritual truths through the "eye to the heart" with increasing interest and most precious results.

I am indebted to many friends for their helpful suggestions, and especially to Mr. Fleming H. Revell, through whose encouragement and periodicals my illustrations have been used in the "Sunday School Lesson Illustrator" for more than twenty-five years, and other publications in Europe and America through which the lessons have been sent throughout the Christian world.

Sometimes it is claimed that this is a kindergarten method of work, suitable only for children. But I have never seen the time when older ones were not interested in the sketch and object methods of imparting truth.

I have used them with great profit during the war in preaching to the soldiers in the camps in Canada and the United States and to sailors in the barracks and on all our battle-ships porting in the Third Naval District.

For eight summers I have used them in my wayside meetings for the busy, brainy business men on Wall Street and at the New York Stock Exchange. In cultured congregations, in Evangelistic Meetings, Chautauquas, great Bible Assemblies, as well as among the

convicts in Sing Sing prison and in meetings for the broken and outcast, the appeal to the heart through the crayon sketches has ever been the same. By the wise use of this method thousands in all walks of life have been won to Christ.

Go forth little book with thy prayer-born messages to aid others in the holy mission of imparting truth and winning souls.

R. F. Y. P.

New York, N. Y.

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I

BLACKBOARDING AS AN ART

Conceptions of art in the past have been limited to painting, sculpture, music, etc., but our modern idea is to associate it with practical skill in many activities of life. It may be applied to needlework or perfecton in any handiwork. Art is defined as "an especial facility in performing any operation, intellectual or physical, acquired by experience or study."

In this sense successful blackboarding may be a fine art. Always remembering that the designs used are only illustrations, and that the illustration is but an agent or channel for the impartation of truth.

Some thoughtful educators oppose the use of pictures and objects in teaching the young as unscientific and a perversion of the principles of Pedagogy. But multitudes of equally earnest, thoughtful Bible teachers have used the illustrative methods with wisdom and skill in the imparting of Scripture truths.

To do this successfully requires careful preparation, profound thought, simplicity of expression, clearness of vision and consummate skill, which is an art.

To take the abstract truth and prayerfully translate it into some concrete form which by lines or symbols or objects may make the truth intelligible to the mind of a child, requires the practical skill of a thoughtful teacher. The pupil mind quickly discerns that the picture or the object is not the truth to be taught but the illustration

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or channel through which the truth is seen and its lesson brought to the mind and heart.

The "Art" is not in the picture sketch, but in the skill by which the illustration is used to impress the truth. Our Lord used many illustrations by miracles, parables and objects in His preaching and teaching. Nature furnished abundant means to aid His hearers to "see" His truth and know His power. His appeal to the hearts of men reached the goal through both eye and ear, and His simple yet forceful illustrations have been teaching His saving truths through centuries of time.

II

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

An elaborate equipment is not essential for efficient blackboarding. It is wisest, of course, to secure the best things possible as the working tools, and yet many excellent results have followed the use of the humblest means.

Some have been led to Christ by the use of sketches made with a charred piece of wood, and with a stick I have scratched designs in the sand by the wayside, or with a small bit of rock have sketched the picture truth lessons on the smooth surfaces of rocks in the heart of Mammoth Cave; and with pencil have drawn the sketches on visiting cards by the bedside of the sick and shut-in ones.

This is not a treatise on drawing nor designed to be a handbook on artistic sketching. Books on the rudiments of drawing can be secured at any bookstore, and it is presumed that those who undertake even the simplest use of the blackboard in teaching the Bible truths will have some knowledge of drawing and some idea of perspective, colouring, lettering, etc.

Many of the pupils in our Elementary and Grammar schools have secured the knowledge and skill in drawing which is being utilized by many Sunday-school workers in the making of the blackboard designs used in the superintendents' or teachers' lesson reviews.

While we emphasize simplicity in the character of the

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sketch and rapidity in making the design, it stands to reason that the better one can draw the more readily can the picture be made to illustrate the ideas and lessons to be imparted.

Use the best tools available, do your best to make the picture attractive, but be willing to subordinate the picture to the Truth.

From a chapter on "Materials," in my book "Pencil Points for Preachers and Teachers" (Revell Co., Publishers), I quote the following:

"An ordinary black-painted board may be successfully employed if nothing better can be secured. Sunday-school supply houses are making a specialty of various characters of blackboards and materials for crayoning. From a small outlay a very good slated board, either on an upright standard or easel can be secured, which will be suitable for all practical purposes. A character of blackboard cloth is manufactured, which may be used with good results.

"One of the best grades of blackboard is the all slate board. This is the most desirable, both because of its durability and the character of the work which may be done upon it.

"For my own work I very greatly prefer using the large sheets of white or delicately tinted paper having a fairly rough surface. While this is rather more expensive yet it is far more effective for general illustrations, and less objectionable because it is practically dustless. These large sheets of paper can be secured at any wholesale paper house, and the size of the sheet as well as the weight of the paper may vary according to one's needs and desires.

"A fair quality of book paper, or what is known in

trade as laid or egg-shell finished paper, weighing about seventy pounds to the ream, cut in sheets about 32 x 44 inches is a very convenient and desirable size.

"In ordering this paper from the dealer it might be well to give a formula, which would contain size, weight, colour, and character. For example:

Size, 32 x 44 inches;
Weight, 70 pounds;
Colour, white or tinted;
Grade, laid, or white wove antique
or egg-shell book paper.

"These sheets may be tacked on the frame of the blackboard, so that when drawing on the paper the board will serve as a firm backing. In the absence of a blackboard for this purpose an ordinary smooth surface board may be used.

"One great advantage in the use of paper rather than the blackboard is that in using coloured crayons to any extent it will be noted that the blackboard apparently absorbs the colours. That is, if you should use a blue, brown or scarlet, etc., in order that these colours should show out clearly, it would be necessary to put a white or a very bright coloured outline beside them. This would make the colours stand out clearly on the board, but it requires extra time and labour to produce the best result.

"That difficulty is avoided when the same colours are used on the white paper. The latter is also best adapted to poorly lighted rooms, or when the illustrative exercises are used at evening time.

Crayons

"An excellent quality of crayons for general sketching can be secured at any artist's supply store. The best is

known as 'Lecturer's Crayon.' Most Christian workers use the ordinary school crayons, assorted colours, which can be purchased at any school supply furnishing house."

III

SIMPLIFIED METHODS

In the beginning of my illustrative work I laboured very hard to present an attractive drawing or picture, but I soon learned that the congregations left my services talking about the "Beautiful pictures," but seemed to have very little to say about the truths which the pictures were designed to portray.

This distressed me very much. The truth was the vital part of my preaching while the sketch was only the "chariot" for the message. I earnestly prayed that the Great Teacher would help me to simplify the lines that they could be quickly drawn and thoughtfully placed so that the truth would be made plain and abide, though the sketch be quickly forgotten.

The years have proven the wisdom of the simple sketches and the psychological effects and spiritual applications have demonstrated their value.

Many publishing houses are furnishing very attractive pictures which are used with good results in Bible teaching. But with the finished picture the first interest centers in the artist's production. The eye quickly sweeps the whole picture and conclusions may be formed, not always in harmony with the lesson to be taught.

With the sketch drawn in the presence of the class, though the lines may be crude, yet if they are thoughtfully and prayerfully placed, the teacher is better able to give the instructions and make the application as the lines are drawn.

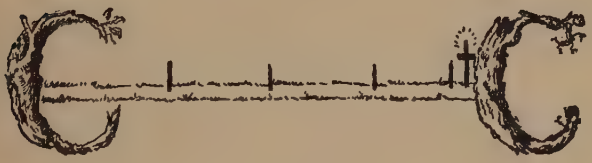
It is not necessary to have an elaborate picture to teach a great truth. Recently in speaking of the value of the cross as a symbol of Christian faith and its meaning to the world I drew two horizontal lines, one to represent GOD, the other to represent MAN, as follows:

Sin separated man from God, and there is no power on earth able to bring them in vital union. But the mercy of God has made it possible for them to come into fellowship and man and God can touch each other through the crimson sacrifice of Calvary.

Jesus came from His home in glory and on the cross He poured out His blood. Through His sacrifice the sinner may have vital union with his Lord. With the scarlet crayon draw a vertical line | between the two horizontal lines, thus forming a cross.

To illustrate the line of life from the cradle to the grave, make a large C at the left of the blackboard to indicate life's beginning at the Cradle. At the right side of the board make another C to indicate the Casket or the close of life. Then draw a broad line from C to C. From cradle to casket is our life line. How far are we along this journey? We cannot tell by the years we have lived. Mark several lines on the broad line to indicate our progress in life. Some may be half-way, some further along the way (indicate by lines).

C——|——|——|†C. Some may have only a few days or hours. The great question is, at the end of the journey is Jesus near, so that we can place our hands in His and walk with Him into the blessed beyond? We do not need to wait until life's closing hour to have Christ with us. We may have Him in childhood and youth as a Counsellor and Friend or in our riper years as Leader, Comforter and Guide. Indicate by marks on the life line your possible place along life's way.



IV

THE VALUE OF ILLUSTRATIONS IN EVANGELISM

We may never fully estimate the number or the value of the impressions for good which come to our lives through eye-gate. General Wesley Merritt of the United States Army, writing to Mr. F. M. Barton, editor of *The Expositor,* said that the text "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34), which is over the altar in the chapel at West Point, burned its lessons into his life as he saw it so often in his student days, and it has been his favourite text of Scripture.

If, as scientific men state, eighty per cent. of the knowledge we receive from the world about us comes through the eye, why should we not more frequently use this channel for imparting Scripture truths? In my own ministry the method of visual illustration has been signally blessed, and the "Pictured Truth" lessons sent out from my study to the Sunday-school world through the passing years have helped multitudes to see the gospel message and believe in Christ the Lord.

In evangelistic services the crayon sketches, often quickly and even crudely made, yet thoughtfully and prayerfully used, have been greatly owned of God. Many pastors and Christian workers are using these illustrations at home and abroad. Missionaries find the pictures a universal language, and often write of their

soul-saving influence, often, too, when the worker cannot speak the native language.

They have a place in the pulpit and social meeting as well as in the Bible school and young people's work, but perhaps their largest usefulness is in the evangelistic field when ability and tact are wisely directed in their ministry.

To be of real service, the sketches should be simple, direct, quickly drawn, without evident laboured effort to create detailed artistic effects; and, above all, they must be scriptural in teaching, and have a spiritual application. They have a value in the arresting and concentration of interest. The novelty of their use may not be lacking in entertainment, but people are generally entertained with truth attractively presented.

Instead of a blackboard I generally use large sheets of white paper, and draw the sketches with coloured crayons. Perhaps no method of wayside or open-air ministry will more quickly assemble a crowd or more closely hold their attention. I frequently speak to the soldiers and sailors on the large battle-ships of the navy. The "Pictured-Truth" talks crowd the gunners' rooms on the ships with bright young men who would not be attracted by the ordinary method of address. At these meetings from seventy-five to two hundred men have each night decided definitely for the Christian life.

Recently I used this method in addressing the Canadian soldiers in their training-camps at Borden and Niagara-on-the-Lake, when one night more than five hundred men gave their lives to Christ. They immediately changed their popular camp song from "Tipperary" to "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

My evangelistic services held for several summers in

the financial districts of New York City have enabled me to preach the gospel to many thousands of bankers, brokers, and commercial men. At Broad and Wall Streets and in front of the Stock Exchange, with an automobile for a pulpit and the illustrated lessons to impress the truth, it is a frequent occurrence to have more than a thousand men stand in the sun for an hour at midday to listen to the message of Christ. On an average one hundred men each day at the Wall Street meetings have asked for prayer. For many summers I have had offices on Wall Street, and supplemented my wayside talks with personal conferences on the Christian life.

The same interest is shown in other cities. At the request of some Christian business men of Toronto, Canada, I introduced the work of the wayside ministry in that city recently. Speaking from an automobile in front of the Toronto Stock Exchange I held services for a few days at the noon hour, and three hundred and fifty men gave their hearts to Jesus Christ.

One does not need to be an artist to do this work effectively, nor should one descend to the mere cartoon or caricature in order to entertain the people. The speaker must be careful, cautious, dignified, and Christlike, as though speaking from a pulpit within the temple of worship. Most illustrators attempt too much, or overdo the use of the crayon. Truth will live, and the sketch should be the instrument or channel for imparting the truth. The more simple lines are often the most forceful.

A few days ago in the rush of the noon hour a prominent man in the Knickerbocker Trust Company stopped for three or four minutes on Wall Street, attracted by

the sketching and the listening crowd. He saw three simple lines placed on the board indicating the significance of the cross of Calvary. The lines carried a message to him, and finally led him to consecrate his life to Christ. Ten days afterward he wrote to thank me for the helpfulness of the sketch which carried the message to his heart. I have no hesitancy in cordially commending the illustrative methods in evangelism, as multitudes have been thus won to Christ through the pictured truth.

In special meetings, whether among the lowly people, in missions, amidst humble surroundings, or in ornate temples of worship with cultured congregations, there has ever been a cordial reception and an appreciation of the board illustrations; and, best of all, souls have been saved through their use.

—The Christian Endeavor World,
by Author of "Pictured Truth."

V

ACROSTICS AND WORD EXERCISES

Children of God **FEAR / FAINT / FAIL NOT**

At the Cross **We Shall Find**

- Sin's load lifted.
- Help in discouragement.
- Vision for Inspiration.
- The Call of Duty.
- Grace for the good.
- Love for the lowly.

J
BREAD
S
U John 6:35.
S
LIFE

THE LOVING AND LIMITLESS GIFT

"My Peace I give unto You"—
P—resent Joy
E—ternal Blessing
A—biding Comfort
C—onfident Trust
E—ndless Rest

THE SINNER'S
WILL is WASTED
WAYS are WICKED
WORKS are WORTHLESS
WEALTH is WASTED

—G. B. M. Clouser.

HEAVEN'S GIFT TO ME

LOVING FATHER
LIVING SAVIOUR
LIFE-LONG HELPER

—Mabel Reynolds Makepeace.

COME TO CHRIST FOR

Pardon. John 6:37.
Life. John 7:37.
Love John 15:9.
Rest. Matt. 11:28.
Fullness. Prov. 9:5.

It's never too soon to learn to spell love with a helping hand.

Illustration. — Place hand on board and outline. Across palm print LOVE. Print on

thumb, HAS NO HATRED;

on forefinger, EVER EXCUSES;

on second finger, LONGS TO LIFT BURDENS;

on third finger, PROVIDES FOR POOR;

on fourth finger, SHOWS SINNERS MERCY.

—Mabel Reynolds Makepeace.

HOW CHRISTIANS GROW

1 Get life from.....
2 Rest in.....
3 Obey.....
4 Work for..... GOD

VI

BLACKBOARD OUTLINE TOPICS

WALK
IN THE LORD. Mic. 4:5.
IN THE TRUTH. Psa. 86:11.
IN THE LIGHT. 1 John 1:7.
BY FAITH. 2 Cor. 5:7.

He is Able to
Deliver. Dan. 3:17.
Save. Heb. 7:25.
Keep. 2 Tim. 1:12.

Follow Me
When..... Matt. 4:22.
Where..... 1 Peter 2:21.
How..... Luke 9:23.

Grieve
Resist
Quench
NOT HIM
.....Eph. 4:30.
.....Acts 7:51.
.....1 Thess. 5:19.

THE CROWN OF ...

THE CROWN
of Life..... James 1:12.
Incorruptible.... 1 Cor. 9:25–27.
Rejoicing..... 1 Thess. 2:19.
Glory..... 1 Peter 5:2–4.
Righteousness... 2 Tim. 4:6–8.

—J. Wilbur Chapman, D. D.

COME TO CHRIST FOR ...

COME TO CHRIST FOR
Pardon..... Acts 5:31.
Provision..... Psa. 34:9.
Preservation..... Jude 1:24.
Peace.....John 14:27.
POWER..... Acts 1:8.

WHOSOEVER WILL
Drink..... Rev. 22:17.
Believe.....John 3:16.
Call..... Joel 2:32.

"Sin in the heart cannot be covered by service."

"Ye Are Complete in Him."—Col. 2:10

IN HIM

WE ARE
- **J**USTIFIED.
- **E**NDUED.
- **S**AVED.
- **U**SED.
- **S**EALED.

WE HAVE
- **C**OMPANIONSHIP.
- **H**ELP.
- **R**EDEMPTION.
- **I**NTERCESSION.
- **S**ANCTIFICATION.
- **T**RIUMPH.

VII

SERMON BLACKBOARD OUTLINES

CONSECRATION

"Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord."—1 Chron. 29 : 5.

IT IS A Personal / A Voluntary / An Active / A Reasonable / A Prompt **CONSECRATION** "Who" / "WILLING" / "His Service" / "To the Lord" / "This Day."

—Rev. Thos. Keely in "Pulpit Trees."

"REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE"

REMEMBER HER Privileges—
Her Sin—
Her Fate—

—Rev. C. H. Perrin, D. D.

TYPES OF CHURCHES

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."—Rev. 2 : 11.

1. The Back Slidden... .....Ephesus.
2. The Rich Poor..... .....Smyrna.
3. The Compromising.. .....Pergamos.
4. The Erring Woman's **CHURCH** .....Thyatira.
5. The Merely Nominal .....Sardis.
6. The Faithful..... .....Philadelphia.
7. The Half-hearted.... .....Laodicea.

—Rev. A. C. Dixon, D. D.

THE CHURCH AND THE TRUTH

"The church the pillar and ground of the Truth."—1 Tim. 3 : 15.

THE TRUTH **CONCERNING**

God.
Man.
Salvation through Faith.
Regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
Justification by Faith.
Ordinances of the Gospel.
Good works.
Resurrection and the Eternal State.

—Rev. J. M. Pendleton, D. D.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."—Ps. 91:1

THE SECRET PLACE

A PLACE OF
- Divine Presence.
- Unbroken Law.
- Inspiration.
- Choosing.
- Feeding.
- Security.

"There was a man sent from God whose name was JOHN. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light."—John 1:6, 7.

THE MAN— "Sent from God."
HIS MISSION— To herald Jesus.
HIS MESSAGE— "Behold the Lamb of God."

"I WILL GUIDE THEE"

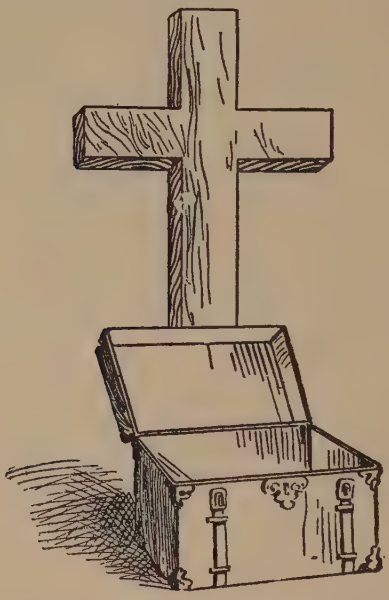
God guided Elijah to 2 Kings 2:1-11
- BETHEL—The house of God—Place of PEACE
- JERICHO—for Conquest——Place of VICTORY
- JORDAN—for Crossing——Place of GLORY

THE TREASURE CHEST OF SALVATION

Rev. C. H. Woolston, D.D.

Objects Used—A cross, a box.

Salvation is a chest of rich treasure. It has been so proclaimed by Jesus in one of His parables in which He declares salvation is like a treasure hid in a field found



by one who sold all that he had in order to purchase it. But the salvation chest is no longer hid, for it can be found by all at the foot of the cross, and is open for inspection, and the world is bidden to come and see and take.

Have erected on the table a wooden cross about three feet high. Place at the foot of the cross a small wooden

box painted red, with lid opened, because its contents were free to the world. Hold up the box before the audience and say, "This represents the treasure chest of salvation."

From this box take out the following articles which represent some feature of our common salvation which is found at the foot of the cross:

1. A broken chain represents the liberty we now possess through Jesus. He sets the captive free. Salvation means deliverance from the prison of sin.

2. A bunch of keys, standing for the promises of the Bible, which are now ours to enjoy because of our salvation. They unlock the treasure shop of heaven.

3. A Bible, which is the lamp to guide us.

4. A cluster of flowers, representing the grace of salvation—faith, hope, love, etc.

5. Large envelope, marked "DEED," representing the inheritance which is ours in the sky.

6. A candle, representing the light-giving power salvation gives us. After lighting it, say "Ye are the light of the world," etc.

7. A ring, representing eternity. Salvation gives us a golden eternity in the city of gold, the home land of the soul.

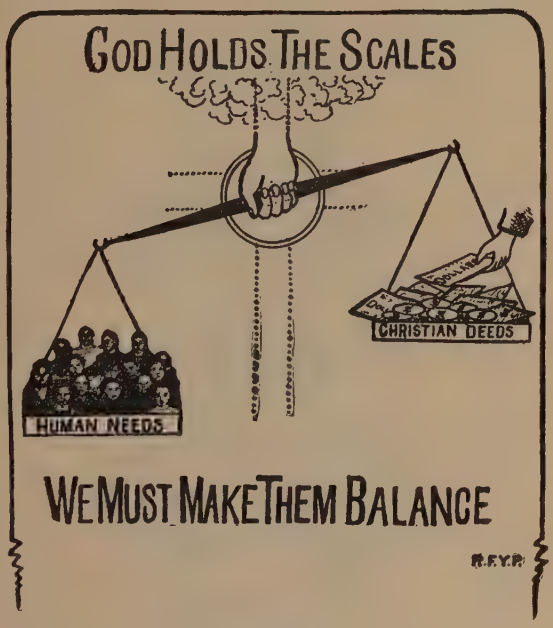
Now shut the lid of the box and put the lighted candle on the lid and say, "Since we have found the treasure chest of salvation, we must so let our light shine that we will be guiding lamps to all people, showing them the way of salvation. Who will come and be rich with treasures that never find wings and fly away? Treasures which this world cannot give or take away? You will find them all in this treasure chest of salvation at the cross of Jesus."

—From "Penny Object Lessons."

VIII

NOVEL ADVERTISING FOR CHURCH BULLETINS

Dr. Pierce's Electric Sign announcing Services in various languages. The clock dial indicates the hour of service, the flag, the nationality. The word WELCOME is given in each language.



WHAT TO DO

AND HOW TO DO IT

DOLLARS AND DEEDS
YOUR
GIFT
WILL
LIFT
HELP IN THE
LIFTING OF THE LOWLY

PEACE AND CALM

FOR THE TEMPEST-TOSSED LIFE

IX

OLD TESTAMENT BLACKBOARD SKETCHES AND NOTES

THE CROWNING OF CREATION

The Biblical statements of man's creation leaves no room for scientific speculations and "missing links." "So God created man in his own image" (Gen. 1:26, 27). "I have created him for my glory, I have formed him, yea, I have made him" (Isa. 43:7).

Back of the purpose, plan and power of God in the creation of man we find His image of knowledge, righteousness and holiness reflected in man, and behold him endowed of God with intelligence, will, affections, memory and all the moral attributes which lift man above every other creature.

With the limitations of our humanity we may not un-

derstand how God created man, nor have we been asked to understand all His mysteries; yet we can rest with great satisfaction in the statement of God's first creation, as we truly believe in the new creation through faith in the Son of God.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print in large outline letters the name GOD. Within this name place in bold letters the name MAN. Man in God, wondrously made, created for the glory of God, and eternally loved of God.

Above these names draw a hand, and speak of the power and purposes of God in the creation of man, to be a representative, "a shower-forth" of God on earth. "In the image of God created he him."

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

The highest conception of God in the Old Testament is Creator,—the holiest thought of God in the New is

" Father." The model prayer voiced by Jesus for the world ascribes to Him the highest reverence, the deepest devotion, the loftiest praise, the most endearing affection. " Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."

" In the beginning, God "—the "Alpha." The last thought is the " Omega " the end. From the Alpha to the Omega is the one holy, reverent, majestic, loving, merciful God our Father.

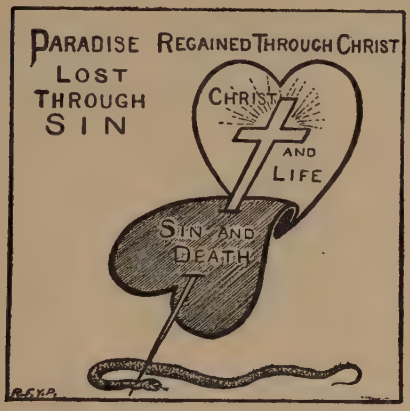
Through the centuries Israel prayed in the name of the patriarchs and fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jesus combined the holiest characteristics and attributes of all the great worthies of past generations and added to them the glory and majesty and mercy of Jehovah and condensed them into the hallowed and endearing name of " Father."

That all men throughout all time should know and reverence and worship and love this heavenly Father, Jesus came revealing Him.

" My God, my Father, blissful name!
O may I call Thee mine?
May I with sweet assurance claim
A portion so divine? "

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first the outline of the globe bearing the name " CREATOR." Then draw an open book of revelation, bearing the name " REDEEMER." Between them print in large letters the words " OUR FATHER " the Alpha and the Omega, emphasize the thought that both as Creator and Redeemer, God is our loving heavenly Father.

PARADISE LOST, AND REGAINED



Our first parents in their Eden were happy, peaceful, pure, and contented in their communion and companionship with God. But when the tempter found a listening ear, and a longing look, he soon found a willing heart, and at once he entered with the sting of death.

While there were degrees in the temptation, there was no change in the penalty for the sinner. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." God was willing for a season to accept the blood of bulls and goats, as atonement for sin, but in the fullness of time He sent forth "His only begotten Son," that all who accept Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour might have eternal life, for He is our Justification and AT-ONE-MENT. Paradise was lost through sin in the heart, but Christ in the heart is paradise regained.

In the hour of Adam's sin he died spiritually accord-

ing to the promise of God, but immediately the provision of Redemption was available through the mercy of God.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a shadowed heart, marked S-I-N. In and around this heart draw a serpent marked D-E-A-T-H. Draw a second heart, white, marked Redemption. In this heart draw a cross bearing the name J-E-S-U-S. Now extend the cross back of the heart to form a sword. Let the point of the sword smite the serpent's head. Apply the lesson that God will not only cast the serpent out when He comes into the heart, but He will smite the tempter that he shall no more have dominion over us. "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head."

THE SAVING SIGN

This sketch represents the doorways to Egyptian homes, on which, by obedience to the command of God,

some of the blood of the sacrificial lamb has been sprinkled. Here is the sign of death for life. It is a symbol of the door of the human heart, to which has been applied by faith the blood of the Eternal Sacrifice: "The Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world."

In developing the lesson review draw first a door; place scarlet marks on both the door-posts and lintel. Around the door draw the outline of a heart to make the application of the lesson a practical one. Over and back of the heart may be drawn a cross to indicate the sacrifice made for sin through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following very forceful illustration was given to primary teachers some years ago by Mrs. M. G. Kennedy, of Philadelphia.

Sketch on the blackboard several doors side by side. On the door-posts and lintels of some of the doors place scarlet crayon marks to represent blood drops. Let the other doors be without scarlet marks. Above the doors draw a broad mark to represent the Destroying Angel. When the angel came to the homes where the blood was sprinkled, as directed by God, he passed over them; but he descended into those homes which had no blood sprinkled upon them, or had blood sprinkled only on a part of the door-post. Half obedience is disobedience. Has the blood of Christ by faith been sprinkled upon our hearts? Have we obeyed the voice of the Lord, and are we safe under the blood?

GOD'S PROTECTING CARE

God watches with paternal care over that which He has created. "He shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways." "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore, will I deliver him; I will set him on high because he hath known my name" (Ps. 91:11, 14). The great God infinite in His power, wisdom and resources, controls the forces and orders the destiny of all things. The hand of God is no more plainly seen in controlling Noah's Ark with its precious freight for the preservation of life, than in controlling Moses' Ark of rushes and in giving wings to the tender baby's cry till it touched the heart of Pharaoh's daughter. God sheltered Moses; He shelters me; He saved Moses, He saves me; He led Moses, He leads me.

What a comforting thought to the children of God: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (2 Chron.

16:9). We must become as little children before God, committing our interests and destiny to Him, and submitting ourselves to His leadership. "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a representation of rushes, a basket on which is placed the word MOSES and speak of the infancy and protecting care of the Child Moses.

GOD'S CALL TO SERVICE

God's call to duty and commission for service go hand in hand. In Exodus 3 we learn of God's call to Moses, and of the great commission to be the honoured leader of a great host. But there had been years of trial and discipline, and doubtless many hours of sweet communion with God, before he was divinely anointed for such a service.

If we shall ever do great things for God we must have silent hours with God. Jacob was left alone with God (Gen. 32:24), and it was a crisis in his life. He came forth from a midnight prayer with a changed name, a new power, a new life, the "Prince of God." It is a great event in any man's life when he is really alone with God.

Moses faced a crisis in his life when he turned aside from the world to be with God at the flaming bush. He heard the call of God to life's duty and received the promise of God's presence, guidance, help and victory.

In communion with God we are best fitted for life's service. *Whenever* God calls to duty the service is urgent, and the field ready. *Wherever* He calls to service, He will give success. *Whoever* God calls to work for Him He will strengthen and bless. Wonderful is the promise God makes to His obedient children: "I will be with thee." The place where Moses stood was holy ground. The holy land for us is not in countries far away, but the holiest spot in all the world is the place in which we stand. It is within the sound of our voices, within the length of our footsteps, within the reach of our hands, and we can hallow this land to coming generations by our Christlike deeds for our fellow-men. Moses had an exalted purpose to liberate his people many years before, but until God called and commissioned him the results could not be achieved. "Wait on the Lord."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a bush which is illumined, and speak of God's voice which called to Moses out of the flame. Then sketch the outline of the Bible on the "bush," and write on it the words "Hear and Heed the Word of the Lord."

DESTRUCTION THROUGH DEFIANCE OF DIVINE WILL

Pharaoh defied the God of Israel and lost his sceptre and crown and life. Men lose everything when they oppose God. Whoever and whatever will strike against the divine will, shall be broken. Nothing is ever gained by opposing God, or crossing His purposes and plans.

Moses is the chosen messenger of God to preach deliverance to the discouraged people of Israel and to demand their deliverance from bondage. By supernatural gifts he proved his divine authority, and by the power of God working with and for him he secured the consent of Pharaoh to his oft-repeated cry, "Let my people go."

The emphasis of the lesson is placed upon the king's refusal to heed the call of God. He hardened his heart and made the burdens and bondage more grievous to be borne. But the cry of the oppressed was heard and God revealed His saving power.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a great stone on which is carved the words, "THE WILL OF

GOD" "LET MY PEOPLE GO." Then speak of the forces which opposed this will when Moses pleaded for Israel. Represent a broken sword of power, a broken sceptre of human authority, a shattered crown of a kingdom. All things shall be broken which oppose the will of God.

FAITH FINDS A WAY

The passage of the Red Sea by the children of Israel is a parable of redemption, in action. God said to Moses when the Israelites came to the waters of the sea, "Go Forward," yet to cross those waters or to divide the sea was a human impossibility. By faith in God a way was opened and His children passed from bondage and death to liberty and life.

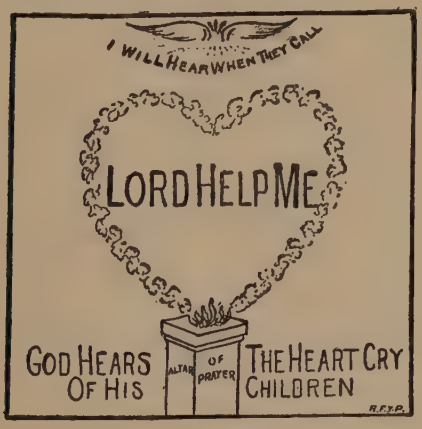
"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform."

There is no human way of salvation; but through faith in Jesus Christ the way is open whereby we may pass from death unto life (John 5:24).

Sometimes in the path of duty we are confronted with a sea of difficulty, but through faith in God the sea will divide and the way be made plain. "Have faith in God." This is the key-note of the lesson. The sea of trouble, sorrow, affliction, will divide for him who is faithful and obedient.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of the sea, with its water piled up on either side, making a passage "Through the midst of the waters." If desired a hand may be drawn above the waters, indicating the hand of God dividing the waters in response to the faith of Moses, who moved his rod above the sea.

THE PRAYER OF THE HEART



For many months God's chosen Israel had encamped

at Sinai. Here God was preparing them for new experiences. The motley company which fled from Egypt and crossed the sea, had become an organized body with chosen leaders, moral and civic laws, religious rites and a tabernacle of worship.

Behind them were many evidences of God's deliverance and protection. Before them lay a long and toilsome wilderness journey. With them was the assurance of God's presence, His promise of help and the hope of rest in Canaan.

The task of leadership is greater than the strength of Moses. The people murmur and complain and looking backward forget the God of help and promise.

Moses cries unto Jehovah in the hour of need. The prayer of his heart reaches to the throne of God, the Lord hearkens and deliverance comes. Helpers are appointed, the people are humbled and made obedient, and the purposes and plans of God for Israel are triumphant.

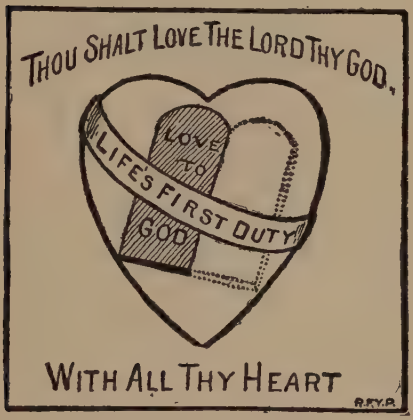
Crises come to men as well as nations. The emphasis of this lesson may well be given to the heart-cry unto the Lord in every hour of need. Life has many difficult problems, "Who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Cor. 2:16).

In every undertaking, in every dilemma, in the discharge of every duty, in every struggle with temptation, in every effort for the uplift of self or the helping of others, *call upon the Lord.* Let the heart cry out for the help of the Lord whose ear is ever open, and who helpeth all who call upon Him in sincerity and in truth. Hear the Father's promise, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee" (Jos. 1:5).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of an altar marked "Prayer." Represent the incense rising from the altar

forming the outline of a heart reaching to the promise of God "I will help thee." Print in the heart the prayer "LORD, HELP ME."

GOD'S FIRST LAW



One Law—Two Tables of Stone—Ten Commandments. The one law is LOVE; love for God, His Wisdom, Ways, Works and His Word; love for man, his Happiness, his Home, and his Hopes.

We learn that God wrote the tables of the law with His own finger, and while the law has often been broken by man, it has never been repealed by the Lawgiver. The Ark of the Covenant, with its sacred treasure of the Law, graven by the hand of God, has been hidden for centuries but it has not been lost to God. Some day it will be brought from its hiding place and the majestic words of the law will be revealed for the condemnation of the men who have broken the commands.

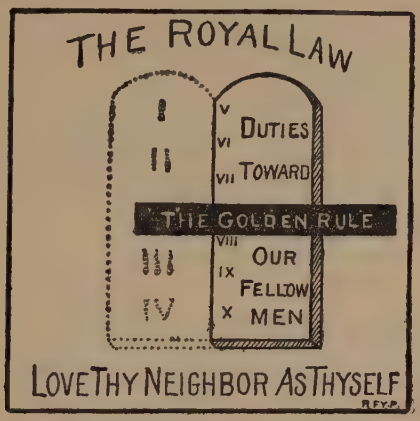
There are four commandments on the first stone, which give us God's laws concerning our relationship to Him. On the second stone are six commandments teaching our duties toward our fellow-men.

Whatever the Lord would lay upon us as a *duty* should be to us a *privilege* to fulfill. Thus His law becomes our delight. We praise God for His majesty and glory as revealed in the book of nature, but our praises melt into love when He reveals Himself in His Word, and we make that Word the law of our lives.

The key-note of this lesson is Love For God. Not a mere affectionate attachment, but a real, burning, whole-hearted love, a supreme love for Him. Let love for God be the law of our hearts, and we shall be blessed ourselves and be rich blessings to others. We may respect God and reverence His powers and perfections, but we cannot love Him supremely unless His law is graven in our hearts.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first a representation of the first page of the law, and write on it "LOVE FOR GOD." Around it draw the outline of a heart and draw a band around it binding the law to the heart. Write on the band the words "Life's first duty," and apply the words of the Golden Text, "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart" (Luke 10:27).

THE ROYAL LAW



The Ten Commandments as given by God to Moses and the world, are the foundations of all moral and civil laws. The one word which runs through the whole decalogue as a golden thread is the word LOVE.

On the first table of the Law God wrote four of the Commandments which specify our duty toward Him. On the second table of the Law He gave six commandments specifying our duties toward the world about us. The second table of the Law is the complement of the first; they both hinge on the word LOVE.

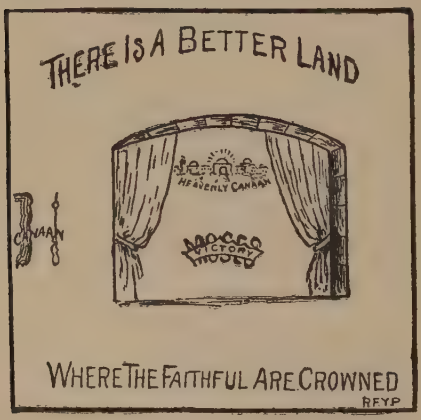
The second table of the Law teaches unmistakably our duty toward our fellow-men. Our duty toward God would not be complete without specific duties toward our fellow-men whom God also loves. To wrong another is to wrong the Master Himself.

Christ taught His disciples, and all who followed His teachings, that we may have eternal life by keeping perfectly the Law as given by God on Sinai, and by loving

Him Who is the embodiment and the fulfillment of that Law.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw an outline of the second table of the Law, containing its six specific commands, emphasizing our duty toward our fellow-men. Across the face of the Law draw the representation of a rule marked "The Golden Rule," and teach the lesson of "The Royal Law," as noted in James 2:8.

THE FAITHFUL ARE CROWNED



From the mountain's summit Moses talked with God, and then died as peacefully as a child would fall asleep on the mother's breast. God conducted the service and buried Moses on Mount Nebo. Only angels attended this funeral service, and anthems of praise rather than funeral dirges welcomed the hero to his heavenly home. "Be ye faithful unto death" and receive the crown of

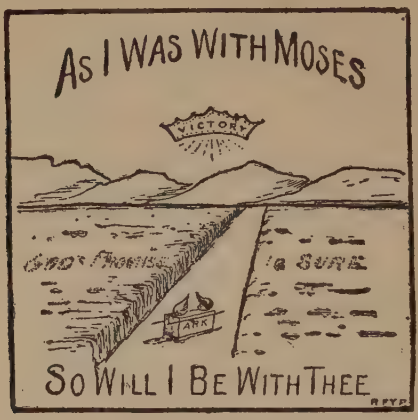
life. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Ps. 116: 15).

"At length the door is opened, and free from pain and sin,
With joy and gladness on his head, the pilgrim enters in;
The Master bids him welcome, and on the Father's breast,
By loving arms enfolded, the weary is at rest.

"The pilgrim's staff is left behind, behind the sword and shield,
The armour dimmed and dented on many a hard fought field;
His now the shining palace, the garden of delight,
The palm, the robe, the diadem, the glory ever bright."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a little map marked CANAAN. Beside this make an open window. Then place a few marks to represent the heavenly Canaan. Print the name MOSES and around it draw a crown, and emphasize the lesson that "GOD'S FAITHFUL ONES ARE CROWNED."

AN UNFAILING PROMISE



This little sketch may represent the Jordan River and the pathway which was opened through it for the passage of the children of Israel into their promised land.

When God has done great things, it is not difficult for us to understand how He may do the lesser things. When God has divided the sea for His children it is easy for Him to make a way for them to cross the river also.

When by faith Israel was led to the brink of the river and their feet touched the waters, God fulfilled His promise; the waters divided "and all the people passed over Jordan." This is one of God's wonderful deliverances of His people as well as to us a parable in action.

Before us is the promised land of blessed experiences and holy delights. Our promised joys beyond the Jordan which must test our faith. Whatever is highest, and holiest and best for us may be ours, if, through faith in God, we seek it beyond our Jordan by sacrifice or trial. In our earthly pilgrimages there may be many rivers to

cross, but if by faith in God we come to the brink of the stream, He will divide the waters for us. When that glorious day shall dawn and we reach the end of our earthly journeys, we shall come to the "narrow stream which just divides the goodly land from ours," and by faith we shall pass through the waters, for Christ is with us and we shall enter into the Canaan beyond to enjoy the "rest which remaineth for the people of God" (Heb. 4:9).

SUGGESTIONS:—Make the representation of a pathway through a stream; in the midst of the stream draw the representation of the Ark of the Covenant and write beneath it FAITH'S CROSSING PLACES.

VICTORY THROUGH FAITH

God wisely uses certain numbers more frequently than others in the carrying out of His purposes and plans.

Seven is often called the sacred number, indicating completeness and perfection. The Israelites encompassed Jericho seven days, and on the seventh day seven times. While there may be strength in numbers and God may use them for wise and holy purposes, yet the power of God is not in numbers, nor forms, nor human devices. The strength of God is not in "arms or armies," nor is it in the wisdom and sagacity, or the brain and brawn of man.

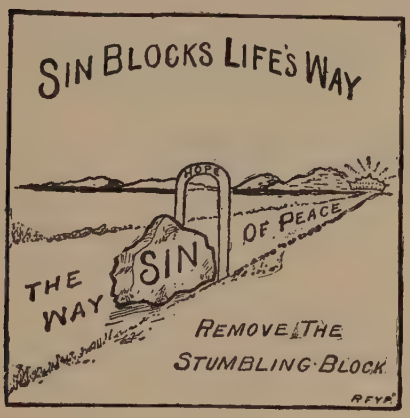
"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4). Faith is more powerful with God than numbers. Read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and note the mighty triumphs of faith. Hope is the heaven-word of the Bible: it turns our thoughts as "an anchor of the soul" toward that eternal home. Love is the sweet, joyous and inspiring word of the Bible: we will GIVE more, DO more, and BE more for love than for anything else in the world. Faith is the conquering word of the Bible: our sins, our sorrows, afflictions, trials, difficulties, dangers, are overcome through faith in God.

Rev. Dr. F. B. Meyer says, "the carnal heart is a walled Jericho." But as by faith the walls of Jericho fell, so by faith in God every wall of oppression or depression, every stronghold or prejudice and sin, will fall. This little picture suggests the crumbled walls of Jericho when the trumpets sounded "VICTORY." It also suggests that the final triumph of the world is through faith in Jesus Christ.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print in large letters the word FAITH. Beneath the word draw representations of a wall in ruins. On the broken pieces of the wall print the name JERICHO. Speak of the fact that many

things which arms and armies cannot do, faith can accomplish. Above the central word FAITH write the word VICTORY, and apply the lesson of Israel's victory through faith and obedience to the word of God. Draw also the outline of the cross and note the many things which are promised us through faith in Christ.

STUMBLING BLOCKS REMOVED



The story of Achan's sin is one of the dark spots in the history of God's chosen Israel. In their onward march of conquest and the possession of the promised inheritance, Israel was defeated and dismayed. The sin of one checked the progress of all. Through prayer and divine searching the sin was revealed and the sinner was punished. Severe as was the justice of God meted out to the sinning one, the sad lesson has been a note of warning to multitudes through the passing years. "Be sure your sin will find you out."

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Not only must the sinner suffer for wrong-doing, but all who love the one who does the wrong must suffer also. All of God's Israel must pause until the wrong is righted. A practical question for each of us: Am I holding back any one of God's children from rich and promised blessings in the kingdom of God?

The bright side of the story is that the Valley of Achor, the scene of Achan's sin, became the "Door of Hope" for the people of God in the days which followed. Has sin blocked our way in life? We cannot hope for progress, peace, or joy, until the sin has been removed and we get right with God. Let us plead with God that our sins may be taken away and that He will graciously save the sinning ones.

Remove every stumbling-block and make the remembrance of our past wrongs a "Door of Hope" for future blessings.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a landscape with a pathway leading to the crown of life. In the way picture a huge block blocking life's way. Remove the block marked SIN, and in its place make an archway or a door bearing the word "Hope."

BETHEL'S VISION AND PROMISE

TOPIC:—Jacob's Vision and God's Promise.—Gen. 28: 1–5, 10–12. (Read chapters 27: 46 to 28: 22.)

GOLDEN TEXT:—"Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest" (Gen. 27: 15).

LESSON STORY:—Tell in order the events noted in the lesson of the day. Jacob's bargain, Esau's anger, Jacob's flight from home; the wanderer, wayward, weary; the beautiful vision; the comforting voice; the precious promise.

CENTRAL TRUTHS:—Though sin must be punished, the sinner may be saved. The way may be dark before us, but it may be bright above us. Every truly penitent heart finds a Bethel.

ILLUSTRATION:—Travellers tell us that the country through which Jacob was passing is rocky and hilly, and as the hills rise, one above another, they suggest the idea of steps. This little picture suggests the thought that from earth's valley there are "steps unto heaven."

It may be that Jacob realized that he was far away from God, and understanding well the steps necessary to be taken to secure the favour and blessings of the heavenly Father, he saw these steps in his vision as a ladder reaching from his stony pillow and leaning against

heaven's floor. He knew, too, that the blessings must begin with his desires, hence he sees angel messengers carrying his petitions up to God and returning with His peace and promise.

APPLICATION:—Art thou a wanderer fleeing from home, weary and worn, sighing for rest, lamenting thy sins and praying for peace? Then, with faith's larger vision behold the angels of mercy carrying heavenward thy petitions, and the white-winged messengers of love descending from on high bringing God's answers of prosperity and peace.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a landscape like unto foothills of a mountain, and to this draw the outline of a ladder for steps leading to a crown.

There let my way appear,
  Steps unto heaven.
All that Thou sendest me
  In mercy given.

Then with my waking thoughts,
  Bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stormy griefs
  Bethel I'll raise.

HE LEADETH ME

In a special sense many Old Testament teachings emphasize the guiding hand of God, both in the individual and national life. It is well to often note the great truth that the God of the prophets, the God of the nations is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. As He led in the past so He leads to-day. By His unseen hand, according to His divine purpose—

"HE LEADETH ME."

My little Consecration Hymn may help to impress this lesson:

Precious Saviour, I have pleaded
For Thy constant guiding care,
That through life Thy hand would lead me
And my every burden bear;
Yet from Thee I've held life's secrets,
Treasures kept from those in need;
Sorrows had in life's full measure,
For I WOULD NOT LET *Thee lead.*

Broken plans strew all my pathway,
And my heart is bowed with grief
For the broken vows unnumbered;
But Thy word gives sweet relief.
"Cast upon the Lord thy burden,"
"In the heavenly pastures feed;"
"Joys supreme and life eternal,"
IF I LET *the Saviour lead.*

Lord, I come, my sins confessing,
Prostrate fall before Thy throne:
Pardon every thought of sinning,
Make and claim me all Thine own.
Precious Saviour, guide me ever,
Grant me grace for every need,
And henceforth, in joy or sorrow,
I WILL LET MY SAVIOUR LEAD.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print in large letters the words "HE LEADETH ME." Above the words place a hand holding the lines which hold the sentence of peace and joy.

THE JOY OF MERCY

The testing time of life comes to all. Prosperity tested the strength of Joseph; adversity tested the strength of his brethren. Real testings of our characters are not made alone in the crucial hours of life when some great question confronts us, but in the quieter movements of life when tested by temptation or trial or disappointment, or putting aside the suggestions to wrong-doing, or in making the apparently small sacrifices of life. Such conditions form the training for the severer tests which lie before us. In successfully meeting the tests of the daily trials and struggles, we are girded for conflict in the crises of life.

Evidently Joseph's brethren had been working to overcome the personal prejudices and selfish purposes which led them into the great evil against Joseph the lad and their sorrowing father. Their thought of Benjamin and their treatment of him must have been more sympathetic and tender as they remembered their past

treatment of Joseph. When brought before Joseph, the Prime Minister, no bitterness was found in their hearts toward any one. Remembering their faults they submitted to a just punishment, even to bonds. Joseph held the key to their merciful deliverance. Through sin we are under bondage to Satan. Christ Jesus through His abounding grace and mercy sets us free.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a lock, linking "Joseph's Brethren" with their commitment to "Bondage." Then place a key in the lock marked "Mercy" and apply the lesson that as Joseph was merciful to his brethren, in greater measure Jesus sets us free from Spiritual Bondage.

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

Perhaps the highest expression of human forgiveness is found in the character of "Joseph when he made him-

self known unto his brethren." Here was revealed his nobility of character, his affectionate remembrance of his home and father, his brotherly love and full and free forgiveness of wrong. "Revenge is sweet" is a heathen proverb. Forgiveness and Charity are the words of golden meaning which form the Christian's motto.

Darkness is only dispelled by light;
Wrong is only corrected by right;
Evil is only overcome by good.

Forgiveness is a greater word than pardon. Pardon sets us right in the sight of the law, but through forgiveness we are not only justified before the law, but we are welcomed into Christian fellowship and companionship. Joseph's forgiveness of his brethren is a foregleam of the full and free forgiveness promised by our Lord Jesus to all who will forsake sin and bow before Him confessing their wrong.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first a picture of a scroll and write in large letters the names JOSEPH and JESUS. Across both names write the word "FORGIVES." Back of the scroll draw the outline of a cross to indicate that the sublime message of the Cross of Calvary is Forgiveness for the Sinner.

GOD HONOURS THE FAITHFUL

Jacob was the chosen of the Lord, and in his life of faithfulness to the God of his fathers, Jacob was exalted by man and honoured of God. Joseph lived to glorify and honour the name of his father Jacob, God's chosen Israel.

Many wonderful lessons are taught in the brief life history of Joseph. The greatness of his character is shown from many angles of vision. His submission to the wrongs of his brethren; his submission to the dishonour of a prison cell rather than suffer dishonour of life by yielding to the temptations of sin. His wise and capable administration of office as Prime Minister of Egypt, in authority next to the King; his masterful help to his brethren and unveiling of their changed characters; his brotherly love and merciful treatment of his brethren who had so grossly wronged him, all combine to make Joseph's character one of the most noble in the annals of the world.

But the devotion to his aged father, his unalloyed affection for him, and his exaltation of him in the Court of Pharaoh is the sublime act crowning Joseph's royal life. By this act he imperilled his high office, invited the contempt of envious courtiers, proclaimed himself lowly born, an offspring of an alien race, and of a despised peasantry. Yet Joseph's love for his race, love for his brethren, love for his father, love for God led him to dare and do the right. Back of all the movements in the life of Joseph was the guiding hand of God working out a mighty deliverance and glorious destiny for his people.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the name JACOB in large letters. Speak of his early life and humble ministry as a herdsman. Note his changed character and conduct through his wrestling with the Angel of the Lord. Emphasize his exaltation in Egypt and his crown of immortal glory.

PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

In spite of his many weaknesses, Saul was a great character. He possessed many personal charms, and his reign bears unmistakable evidences of generalship and statesmanship. He organized and established the Northern tribes of God's chosen people, and their unity and strength indicate much wisdom in government; but in the great testing time of his life, Saul failed. The flaw in his life was the sin which made him lose the favour and the presence of God, and the failure to repent when God gave him the opportunity. Instead of sincere repentance, and seeking the help of God, he turned to the sorceress for guidance.

The man preserved of God, chosen of God, anointed of God, prospered of God, must ever find his help and inspiration in God. Next to the loss of a soul is the loss of a God-given opportunity. One of the saddest records in Old Testament history is that of Saul's failure as a king, and his inglorious death. He was not rejected

from being king because God had grown weary of his administration, but because Saul had lost his grip on God, and his faith in God's word; hence he could not stand in the testing time which God permitted as a trial of his faith.

He failed to keep the law, and for his *disobedience* he must be *dethroned.* In God's economy, broken laws mean broken crowns. Saul sought to prepare himself for the battle, but failed to prepare to meet God.

Failure Fruit of Saul Sin

Dear scholar, heed the warning lesson. The testing time will come for thee. In all the preparations for life and its successes, "prepare to meet thy God." Though we gain fame or fortune, and lose Him, we have lost all. Note the warning message: "Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he also hath rejected thee from being king." Live to gain the Christian's promise: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2: 10).

SUGGESTIONS:—Print in large letters the Golden Text of the lesson, "PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD." Over the word "prepare" draw the outline of a heart, indicating the source of the preparation, and over the name "God," draw the outline of a crown, indicating His precious promise for faithfulness and fidelity.

GOD SEES THE HEART

Appearances do not always distinguish the sinner from the saint, but God's eye can see through all shields which we may place before our lives. Good clothes are not always the sign of good fortune. From the dress we cannot distinguish the mistress from the waiting maid, or the clerk from the employer, nor good from those disposed to do evil.

As the sunlight streams through the window-pane illuminating home life, so God looks through all our outward appearances to the heart life. He knows when we offer poetry for piety, or prefer an honour-seeking life to a heavenly-minded spirit.

God has so long been searching for men to fill important stations in His earthly kingdom, that He knows just where to look for the best man. An humble life or a youthful heart is not an obstacle to Him. David was an humble shepherd lad, too young and insignificant to be considered worthy of a prophet's blessing, yet God had

chosen him for great honour. When the Lord of Hosts wishes to honour us, He will search us out and raise us up. "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6). Wouldst thou be exalted? "Remember that before honour is humility." Wouldst thou be a king? Hear the song of the Shepherd King. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass" (Ps. 37:5).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a scroll bearing the words, "My pretensions," and an eye, representing the eye of the world, looking toward the scroll. Then draw a heart partly hidden by the scroll, bearing the words, "My life." Above this draw a large eye to represent the eye of God, and make the application of the lesson that while man looks upon the outward pretensions, God looks upon the heart. Men looked upon the most attractive for Israel's king, and God looked for the most worthy, loyal and true.

THE ROOT AND THE FRUIT OF SIN

Absalom's treason, rebellion and crime found their root in the broken law of God: "Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." This precious command of God, bearing a rich promise of length of days and attendant blessings of peace and honour, stands at the morning of life. It contains an admonition to parents to possess the noblest characters, exemplify the noblest virtues, and flood the home with an atmosphere of love and reverence. It also extends a perpetual benediction to the children who shall honour the parents and magnify the hallowed associations of home. David was far from being an ideal father, and his palace was not an ideal home for the training of tender youth. If we would have our children develop the purest lives and noblest characters, we must environ their childhood with the sweetest and best of home influences.

Poor David's lament for Absalom's guilt cannot be

separated from David's sin and his neglect of parental love in the training of his child. But Absalom's sin cannot wholly be laid at David's door. He had many princely qualities and great opportunities. The morning of his life was full of promise. His father's repentance and worshipful life, and nobility of character in after years should have been an inspiration to Absalom's young manhood. But he deliberately chose a life of sin and profligacy. He was ambitious, self-willed, crafty. His treason ripened into rebellion and brought him to an untimely death. Broken laws of home, of country, or of God will bring disaster, dishonour and death. Through the broken laws the seeds of crime take root, filling the land with sorrow.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of the broken tables of the law. Absalom's sin broke the Fifth Commandment. Between the broken pieces of the law draw the representation of a plant on the leaves of which are written Absalom's sins—"Treason," "Rebellion," "Crimes" of every character and sins of every kind.

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

The history of David is filled with illustrations of God's providential leadership and protection. From his anointing by Samuel to his coronation, God was with him. The adversities and trials of his life were blessings in disguise, for through them he was being disciplined in personal endurance and schooled in the ways of the world. This training was of untold value to him in after life. God is ever seeking to guide our lives according to His perfect plan, and His guiding hand is ever manifest in our leadership. We may be disobedient and rebellious, and so thwart God's purpose in our lives, or we may be submissive and docile and obedient and so fit our lives into God's perfect plan.

Even Saul's jealousy was used by God to further the enthronement of the young king and ultimately prepare him to be the messenger of encouragement and hope to multitudes through the writing of his wonderful psalms of comfort. Without a prison for John Bunyan, we

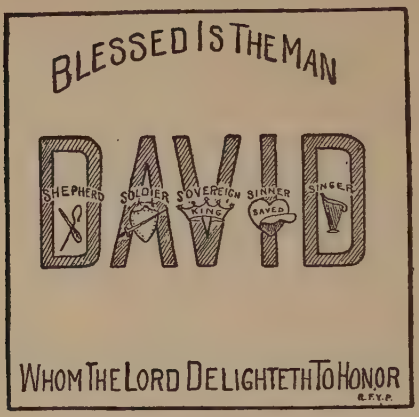
should never have had his "Pilgrim's Progress." And without the trials of David's life, we should not have had his wonderful psalms of help and hope, of peace and power.

David having escaped the wrath of Saul, and having been saved from the javelin cast by the frenzied king, could write in after years, "Now I know that the Lord saveth his anointed" (Ps. 20:6). David found his great trust in God to be his shield against the darts of every adversary.

"Under His wings I am safely abiding,
There will I hide till life's trials are o'er;
Shielded, protected, no evil can harm me,
Resting in Jesus, I'm safe ever more."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw in large letters the name of David, and speak of God's guidance of his youthful life from the sheepfold to the palace of the king. Then draw a shield and a broken spear over the name of David; and emphasize God's providential care of all who perfectly trust in Him. We may not be free from trial but we shall be sustained and blessed *in* and *through* trial endured in His name.

THE GLORY OF A GREAT KING



In studying the life of David it might be well to emphasize certain epochs in his life history.

1st. SHEPHERD. All are interested in the shepherd lad, with his love for his sheep, his faithfulness to duty, and his call to higher ministry. The memories of his shepherd life, his care, leadership, comradeship, protection, feeding and folding, inspired in after years his matchless shepherd psalm, 23rd.

2d. SOLDIER. David's reverence for the name of God, his patriotic zeal, his reliance on the arm of God, and his victories in the name of Jehovah, called him to be the deliverer and the leader of his people Israel.

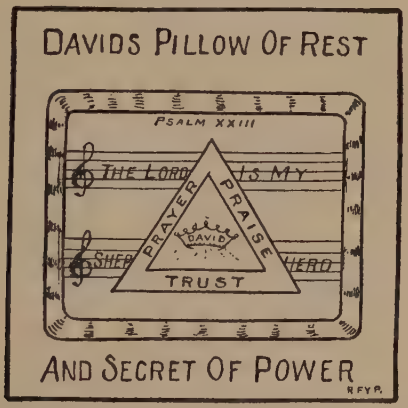
3d. SOVEREIGN. David's wisdom, leadership, statesmanship, courage, and devotion to religious life led to his anointing and coronation as Israel's greatest king.

4th. SINNER. Great men may falter, fail and fall. Forgetting and forsaking God culminates in the downfall of men and nations. A prompt return to God and forsaking of sin is the sinner's only safeguard.

5th. SINGER. David's remembrances of God's mercies, warnings, leadings, blessings and love are enshrined in the loftiest hymns of praise ever voiced by human lips. His psalms have set the whole world singing the praises of the Eternal King.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print in large letters the name DAVID. On each letter place the words and symbols of the epochs of David's life noted above. SHEPHERD (Crook), SOLDIER (Sword & Shield), SOVEREIGN (Crown), SINNER (Heart Cleansed), SINGER (Harp).

REST IN THE LORD



The Twenty-third Psalm has been as a pillow of rest and peace for many a weary head and heart through the passing years. It has always been precious to me, and I have rejoiced many times in its sweet words of comfort and peace, but it never seemed so much like a pillow of rest as when I stood one day by the bedside of a dying saint.

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As this Christian sister was just passing over life's river she took my hand and spoke of complete SATISFACTION in Jesus Christ and said, "My Shepherd supplies every want; I wish to leave as my testimony that the Lord is faithful and has fulfilled every promise."

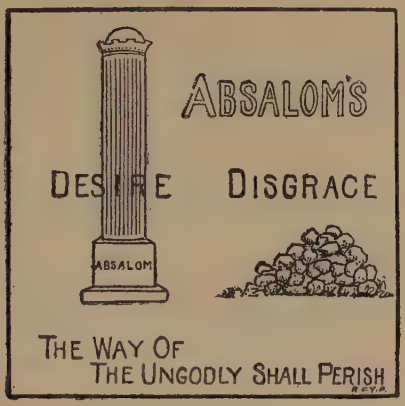
She also spoke of Rest and Peace. So weak and tired but "Oh, the perfect peace my Saviour gives me, it flows like a river, no doubts, no fears; I cannot *pray* for everything melts into Praise. I feel like David must have felt when it could be written of him, 'The prayers of David are ended.'" Of the wonderful PRESENCE she said: "There is no darkness, for Jesus is here; don't you see my precious Saviour? I will walk with Him gladly; so anxious to get to my eternal home. 'Thou art with me, I will fear no evil.'" She gave us assurances of her complete VICTORY through Jesus Christ, saying to us, "It seems as if the physical were all gone and the mental almost gone. I seem to be between two worlds. 'Underneath me are the everlasting arms' and they encircle me. Praise the Lord God Almighty. Now let me sleep. I am entering into the house of the Lord, to dwell with Him forever." And so with a look of glad surprise she entered into Life.

"Jesus can make a dying bed
Feel soft as downy pillows are."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of a pillow and place on it lines to represent a staff of music, on which write the words of the Psalm.

"The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am His,
And He is mine forever."

ABSALOM'S DESIRE AND DISGRACE



One of the saddest words in human speech is the word "failure." The morning sunrise may give promise of a beautiful day, but clouds and storms may cause the day to close with a tempest. The vessel with sails set and with favouring wind and tide may promise a prosperous voyage, but the storms may come, and wreckage strew the shore. See that fair young life; so full of promise and of hope, but the mistakes of life and the sins of the heart may make a sad wreck of all the hopes and plans before the meridian of life has passed. Like a flaming beacon stands the example of Absalom's life, warning the youth of the land to flee the lusts and passions of life, and shun the temptations of selfhood and worldly ambitions which bring mental, moral, and spiritual shipwreck.

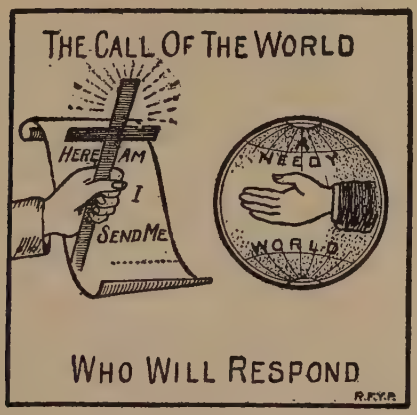
Though reared in a palace and educated as a prince, he flung aside the golden opportunities of an honoured career and a precious memory for a selfish ambition

and a dishonoured grave. Absalom desired to have a great pillar in the King's Dale, inscribed with his name and virtues, but a pile of stones cast in contempt marks the place of his ignoble sepulchre. Said a great writer, "Could I call around me in vast assemblage the young men of the land, I would say 'Hopes of the nation, blessed be ye in the dew of thy youth,' but look well to your footsteps, for vipers and scorpions and adders surround your path."

Great are the temptations of life, but greater are the promises and the power of God. No young man need fail. Agencies of good are on every hand to help him to an honourable career, if he will deliberately choose and persistently pursue the right course. The world is filled with the lamentations of parents over the failures of wayward sons and daughters. For the cause of many of these failures we need simply to look over the back numbers of the family record, but not for all of them. Many children go wrong in spite of godly parents and Christian home training. Let us use the lessons of Absalom's life as a warning to the youth committed to our care.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a monument or obelisk bearing the name Absalom; over it write the name DESIRE. Absalom *desired* a monument in the King's Dale commemorating his glorious achievements. Draw also a pile of stones, marked DISGRACE. For a wicked life he filled a dishonoured grave. It is not what we *desire*, but the way we *live* that determines our destiny.

ANSWERING THE CALL OF THE WORLD



Sad was the condition of sinning Judah when God called Isaiah to the holy service of warning and winning them back to God and duty.

Like Paul at Troas when in the vision he saw the beckoning hand and heard the Macedonian call, so Isaiah beheld the vision and heard the Voice calling him to save the repentant and faithful remnant of God's chosen people. In answer to the call of duty the prophet cried " Here am I, send me."

The great world is lying in wickedness and the Master calls for service in His name. We do not need the glorious vision or the audible voice, but the beckoning hands from mission fields as well as the cry for help from the suffering, sorrowing, sinning ones in the home-land fervently plead for our Christian service. To every call for ministry in the Master's name may the

prompt personal, practical response be in the words of Isaiah:

"Here am I, send me."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a Globe marked "A needy world," having a hand extended for help. By the side of this picture make a scroll and a lighted torch. On the scroll place the words of the Golden Text, "Send me."

GOD GIVES THE VICTORY

This is an important lesson bidding us not lose hope in the dark hours of life. It was a dark day for God's chosen Israel. Zechariah and Zerubbabel were both discouraged and ready to give up their work. They could not see how the great mountain of opposition could be overcome; how any form of government, or physical

powers could restore peace and bring prosperity again to the nation.

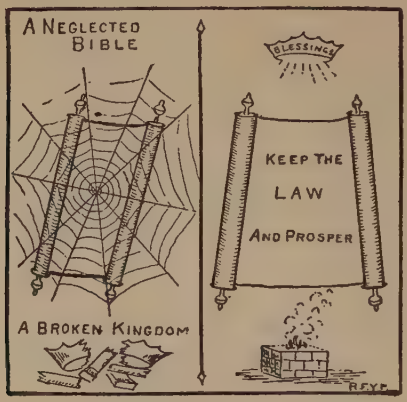
In our lesson we learn how the people were assured of victory. God gave them a vision, and assured the people that success in His undertakings did not depend on human strength or natural forces, but that the hidden hand of power was the Spirit of the Lord.

Back of all our human planning are the purposes and forces of God. His resources are beyond human estimate. All human effort is unavailing without the Spirit of God, and no human agency can thwart His power.

All opposition to God's will and God's people shall be overcome by the sword of the Spirit. Not Gideon, but God triumphs; not might, but Spirit.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of the seven-branch lamp, and have its light spell out the word VICTORY. Represent the lamp as receiving its supply of oil from above.

THE BIBLE LOST AND FOUND



The real cause of the downfall of God's chosen nation was the lost Book of God. Loyalty to the king soon fails when His law is disregarded.

In the old dispensation the high priest, in his ministries in the Temple, wore the breastplate with its precious gems on which was engraven the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. "The mystic light" which flashed upon the jewelled stones of the breastplate revealed the will of God in answer to the high priest's prayer. Think of that breastplate being lost! It would mean a judge dethroned, an intercessor removed, the Temple service destroyed, a silent God.

The Bible is the Christian's breastplate. The Bible lost, means the people doomed. When the nation desired a better life, truly repented and brought an offering unto God, the Book was found. What a pondering of the Word when it was brought from its hiding place. What a transformation of life and character when its sacred precepts were made known.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first a scroll with cobwebs covering it, to indicate the neglected Word of God. Beneath it draw the representation of a broken crown. In contrast draw an open scroll suggesting an open Bible, studied and loved. Beneath it make a restored altar with its fires rekindled; above the open Word draw a crown bearing the word "Blessings."

KNIFING THE WORD OF GOD

Draw a picture representing the destruction of the Book of the revealed will of God, by King Jehoiakim when he cut the leaves of Jeremiah's recorded prophecies with his penknife and cast them into the fire.

Many seek to destroy the Word of God and the works of the servants of God, because they oppose their unrighteous plans and purposes. The opposition to the Bible and the Church to-day is due to the selfishness and the sinfulness of men.

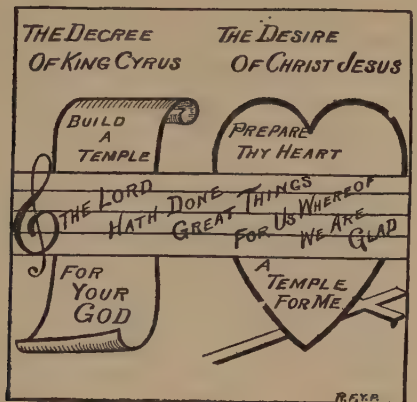
The Book was destroyed by the king's decree, but the prophet Jeremiah was preserved to rewrite his words of wisdom and warning. When God speaks, His words must live. Through sin the tablets of stone with the writing of God were broken when Moses came down from the mountain. But the commandments perished not. God wrote the words again, and assures us that in a few hours the old Book would live again with increased light and power, if it be destroyed by men.

We cut the Book by destructive criticism, by rejecting its truths, by neglecting to read and teach it, by accepting only a part of its teachings, by not heeding its warnings, and by wrong interpretations of its meaning.

Beware of destroying God's Book. "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22: 19).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a scroll to indicate the ancient Book of God. Then draw a hand holding a knife in the act of destroying the Book.

THE SONG OF THANKSGIVING


THE DECREE OF KING CYRUS
THE DESIRE OF CHRIST JESUS
BUILD A TEMPLE
PREPARE THY HEART
THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD
FOR YOUR GOD
A TEMPLE FOR ME

Jehovah fulfilled what Jeremiah foretold. The decree of Cyrus was the day-dawn for the hopes of Israel. We may not know the reasons which led to such a wonderful proclamation, but God was moving upon the heart of king and counsellors as well as upon the minds of the people. When God stirs the heart, untold blessings follow.

The blackboard sketch indicates the proclamation of the king, "Build a temple for your God"; the decree of Cyrus is suggestive of the desire of our Lord Jesus Christ that every heart may become a tabernacle for Him. Make room in your heart for Christ. He will come, abide and bless, if we open our hearts and bid Him welcome (Rev. 3:20).

The decree of the king must be executed before the people can sing the song of rejoicing; the desire of Christ must be fulfilled before we can sing with holy joy

the song of thanksgiving, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a scroll on which is written, "King's Decree." Draw also a heart bearing the desire of Jesus for us. Across both scroll and heart place a staff of music and write the song of thanksgiving, for blessings, for time and for eternity, for the faithful of the Lord.

THE LIFE-GIVING STREAM

When Ezekiel said "Everything shall live whither the river cometh" (Ezek. 47: 10), he had a vision of the glorious, transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ sending forth its streams of hope, and peace and joy throughout the world.

Ezekiel's vision revealed the River's
SOURCE within the Temple of God and beneath the altar;
its COURSE through the world;
its FORCE. "Everything shall live whither it cometh."

The Gospel of Christ may be likened to a fountain pouring forth its life-giving stream, forming a river nourishing, refreshing, purifying. Its blessings are seen in the establishment of churches, asylums, hospitals, and multitudes of other benevolent enterprises to uplift and gladden mankind.

Sin brought darkness, distress, disease, death. Jesus brought life, liberty, light, love. The Gospel is the "good news," the "glad tidings" to a sin-cursed world. Jesus came to save the lost, and all who will turn to Him and repent of sin shall have life (John 3:16). No wonder that Paul could say, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ;" for it is the Gospel which read consecutively gives a suggestive outline of the life and mission of Christ.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw an open Bible; place on it a fountain to represent the Gospel; draw a picture of a landscape and make the stream from the fountain form a river.

THE SHIELD FOR THE HEART

We may not all have the same trials as Daniel, but we shall be tried. The great thought for us is to be ready, by prayerful preparation and perfect consecration, when the test comes.

The persecution of the servant of God was overcome by the power of God. The sword of evil thrust toward Daniel was broken by the sword of the Spirit. The envy of enemies put Daniel, by the king's unalterable decree, in the den of lions, but God shut the mouths of the lions. No mark of lion's teeth for the chosen of the Lord.

God not only spared His servant but He destroyed those who sought to wrong him. It is perilous to lay violent hands on the Lord's anointed. God not only turns aside the evil from the innocent but He breaks in sunder the evil-doers.

After the crosses of life come the crowns of glory.

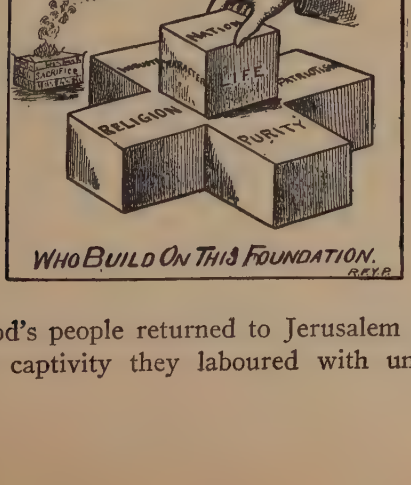
After trial for right, comes exaltation by the Righteous one.

The face at the open window when Daniel prayed was seen of God and power was given for every trial in answer to the fervent prayer of His child.

This little sketch suggests that the heart which is constant in devotion and courageous in duty has a shield against every foe.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a heart and write on it "COURAGE" and "CONSTANCY," to denote the characteristics of Daniel's life. Over the heart draw a shield marked "Faith in God." Back of these represent the sword of Christian conquest breaking the power of the enemies of truth and righteousness.

BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS



When God's people returned to Jerusalem from their Babylonian captivity they laboured with united heart

and hand to set up the altars of the Lord. The people builded the altar of sacrifice and *set it upon the old foundations.* In all our service we must not remove the ancient foundations (Prov. 22:28).

They builded the altar before they rebuilded the temple, indicating that acceptable service is more important than an acceptable sanctuary. The people kept the feast of tabernacles, and thus with holy joy gave thanks to God for mercies past and blessings to come. When they laid the foundation their joy knew no bounds. It was the occasion of national rejoicing. The altar service had inspired them to benevolence and they gave freely that the temple might be rebuilt.

The people rejoiced and doubtless sang that song of gladness found in Psalm 126. They rejoiced because, 1st, It was the Temple of the Lord Jehovah; 2d, It was to be their sanctuary of worship; 3d, The glorious times of the past were to come again; 4th, They had contributed freely to its construction; 5th, They could sing again the Lord's song (Ps. 137:1–4).

SUGGESTIONS:—The foundation of our spiritual temple is the Rock of Ages. Whosoever buildeth on Him shall never fall. Draw several large blocks in the form of a cross. Mark on them "RELIGION, PURITY, INDUSTRY, PATRIOTISM," and have them represent the foundation for the building of a righteous nation, a strong character and an upright life.

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

READY FOR SACRIFICE OR SERVICE

God is always preparing great men for great emergencies. When Israel was to be delivered from Egypt, God prepared Moses for the task. When God's people were to be delivered from the ravages of the Midianites, God had Gideon ready to lead His people to victory.

The strength of Gideon's life and leadership lay not in the fact of his noble birth, industrious habits, and patriotic love of country, but in his beautiful character and firm reliance on God.

When called for a mighty service for God and country, he leaned not on the arm of flesh. His first step was humble obedience in response to the call and a girding of himself with the power of God. Gideon called to general an army might look well in a new uniform and glittering sword, but victory lay not in these. Laying hold on the arm of Jehovah and the sword of the Spirit, Gideon went forth with God to conquest. He

was ready with heart and hand for any service or any sacrifice for God and His people.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print the name of Gideon in large letters. Over the name draw a heart. In the heart draw a hand, and apply the lesson of heart and hand for the service of our Lord.

NOT GIDEON, BUT GOD

When called to be Israel's leader, like other men called of God in humble spheres of life, Gideon made sure that it was the will of the Lord; that God called him; that when God called He would surely give the victory. Stepping out on the promises of God, he marshalled the hosts of Israel and sifting them by most searching tests, he chose the men of undaunted courage, who had faith in him as he had faith in God.

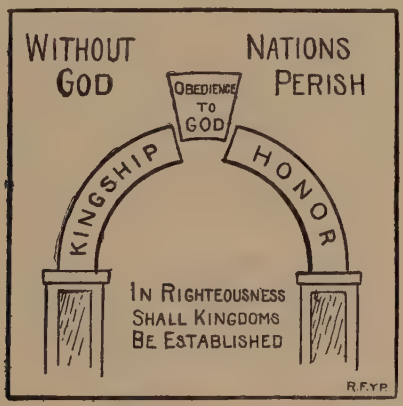
Lamps, pitchers, and trumpets were humble instruments, but back of them all were men of courage and the

hosts of God. We are to use divinely appointed means in fighting the battles of the Lord but remember "Faith is the Victory," which overcomes the world.

Not Gideon
But God

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a broken pitcher and a lighted lamp. Above these draw a Ram's Horn sounding out its notes of victory. Then draw a sword with bright rays to indicate the sword of the Spirit. Apply the lesson that it is by the Spirit of God we are to gain life's victories.

THE KEYSTONE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



Righteousness is a fundamental principle of right living and permanence in government. It is one of the great truths which is presented for our thoughtful study in the history of God's dealings with Israel.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). God's covenant with Israel was never broken. "Keep the law and prosper" was the key-thought of that covenant, and in the keeping of God's law Israel had strength and establishment.

Among the most conspicuous of those who suffered through unrighteous living and leadership are noted the names of Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam and others who had been elevated to positions of trust and responsibility. Kings nor kingdoms can come to honour without obedience to God.

In contrast to those who failed, note the blessing of power, protection, and provision which God gave to Elijah and others who were true to Jehovah and exalted His name above all the earth.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of sections of an arch bearing the words "KINGSHIP"—"HONOUR." Above these sections make a keystone for the completed arch, bearing the words "Obedience to God." Apply the last words of David in 2 Samuel 23. "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."

THE CROWN AND THE CROSS OF A KING

It is interesting to note the vital connection of Ezekiel's prophecy concerning the Shepherd (Ezek. 34), David's matchless poem of assurance and hope, the Shepherd Psalm (Ps. 23), and Christ's practical illustration of His mission and ministry in the simile of the Good Shepherd (John 10).

What Ezekiel saw in prophetic vision, David experienced in heart and life and Jesus fulfilled in blessed ministry.

The illustration of the Shepherd's watchcare is the most tender and complete of all the similes used by our Lord. In the practical application of its teachings we may claim with David,

1. Possession, "The Lord is my Shepherd."
2. Provision, "I shall not want."
3. Personal Guidance, "He leadeth me."
4. Presence of God, "Thou art with me."

5. Protection, "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

6. Plenty, "My cup runneth over."

7. Peace and Rest, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

What Ezekiel prophesied, Jesus fulfilled.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a scepter under which place the crown of a king marked DAVID; then draw a shepherd's crook and beneath it draw a cross and write the name JESUS.

"The Lord is my Shepherd
No want shall I know:
He leads in green pastures
Where still waters flow."

ALTARS FALSE AND TRUE

Elijah, the prophet of the Most High God, stands alone amidst the prophets of Baal, and the forces of an

evil kingdom and corrupt court, to prove that Jehovah omnipotent reigneth, and that He alone is the true God.

The fire descended in answer to Elijah's prayer, the sacrifice was consumed, the enemies were silenced, the false priests were overcome, the king was convinced, and God was honoured. We do not know how much power we may have when linked with God. We may not bring the literal fire from heaven, but we can take hold of the power of God and bring from the skies the pentecostal showers which shall put to flight the hosts of evil, and honour the name of God.

The Church needs men like Elijah to-day. Mr. Moody once said that "God is waiting to show the world what He can and will do through a life wholly consecrated to Him."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of an ornamental altar, bearing the name Baal, the heathen god. Now make a plain altar of rough stones bearing the name of Jehovah the true God. Above this altar represent the rays of light, suggesting the answered prayer of the prophet.

At which altar do you worship?

THE MESSAGE OF MERCY

Many of the most tender pleadings and richest promises in the word of God are directed to the rebellious, erring, wandering ones. Hosea is often called the "Backsliders' book," as it summons the wanderers back to God and reveals the way by which they may be restored to the Father's heart and home.

Next to the precious message of the love of God which makes salvation for the sinner possible, is to be written the message of hope.

> "While the lamp holds out to burn
> The vilest sinner may return."

The key words of the lesson are REPENT, RETURN, REJOICE.

Above all the lamentations for their sins is heard the pleadings of the prophet for the prodigal Israel to return. Israel had wandered far from God. Idolatry, de-

bauchery, and wickedness of every sort had possessed the people. Amos had prophesied the wrath of God upon Israel for their wickedness. Hosea also prophesied the destruction of the nation for their wickedness, but in love promised them pardon, peace and prosperity if they would repent and turn to the Lord.

The same great warnings for sin and gracious invitations to forsake sin and turn to God, are ever sounding in our ears. While God calls He waits to bless.

> "Return, O wanderer, return,
> Thy Saviour bids thy spirit live;
> Go to His bleeding heart and learn
> How freely Jesus can forgive."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a scroll bearing the words "He Will Have Mercy." Then draw a hand with the index finger pointing to the word "MERCY." Above the scroll place the invitation "Return unto the Lord" and beneath the scroll write the words of promise "He Will Abundantly Pardon." Over the hand draw rays of light in the form of a cross and make the personal application to the love of Christ who longs to pardon the repentant sinner.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

X

NEW TESTAMENT BLACKBOARD SKETCHES AND NOTES

JOY BELLS

WHEN the starlight bathed Judea's hills, and the angels sang their message of hope and peace to the shepherds who were watching their flocks by night, it betokened the dawning of a glorious day which would never have a night for all who would hear and heed the holy song of joy.

The heavenly anthem carolled by God's choir on the first Christmas morning was the sweetest music which ever fell on mortal ears. No other song ever sung on earth was half so sweet, so pure, so true, so good. The angels who worship before the throne, though they bring to earth the greatest message for time and for eternity, first ascribe praises to God who giveth salva-

tion, then herald great joy to the world which receiveth the wonderful gift.

The angels' song was entrancing, the theme eternal. The birth of a child made Christmas possible. Around the manger cradle of Bethlehem circles the history of the Christian world. Without Jesus Christ there could be no happy hearts, nor holy songs, nor hallowed scenes these joyous Christmas days. Before He came, the world was in shadow and hearts were filled with sadness. His coming meant pardon for sin, and salvation for the sinner. Instead of earth's night there came the promise of an eternal day.

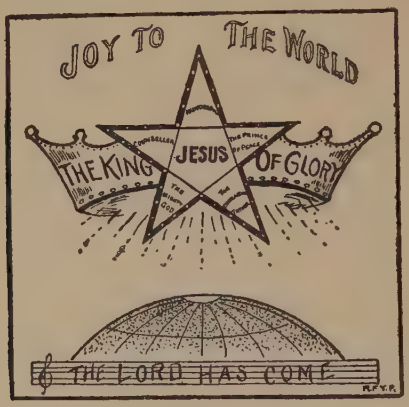
"Hark! what mean these holy voices
Sweetly sounding thro' the skies?
Lo! the angel host rejoices,
Heavenly hallelujahs rise.
Hear them tell the wondrous story,
Hear them chant in hymns of joy,
Glory in the highest, glory!
Glory be to God on high."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of a globe, and on the upper third draw an illuminated crown bearing the name Jesus. Across the face of the globe draw four bells marked "X-M-A-S" and a staff of music bearing the words of the hymn:

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let heav'n receive her King."

"Let earth receive her King."

BETHLEHEM'S STAR, AND THE HEAVENLY ANTHEM



Around the manger cradle of Bethlehem circles the history of the Christian world. Chiming bells, merriment, joy, home gatherings, gifts of love, church festivities, and social delights all have their inspiration in that glad hour of the long ago when the mystic starlight bathed Judea's hills and the wondering shepherds heard the angels carol the first Christmas anthem.

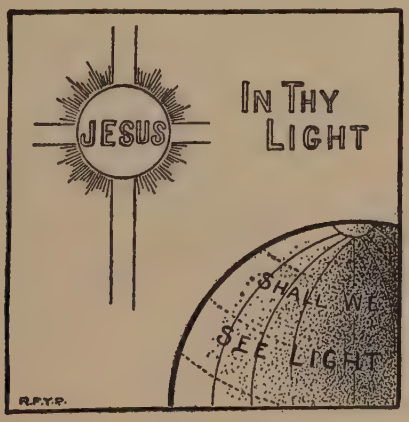
Isaiah's prophecy of the glory and majesty and character of the Messiah is fulfilled in the "Glad tidings of great joy" to a lost world. This heavenly anthem was the sweetest music ever heard by mortal ear. In the midst of the moral darkness of the world there shone a light as bright as the glory of God. This mystic light encircled the earth and filled the shepherd watchers first with fear and then with holy joy. Not only with the vision of heavenly light and heavenly messengers, but with the voice of heavenly music must the Messiah be proclaimed. The angel's song was entrancing, the theme

of their song is eternal. May we ever sing with the angel choir the song of:

"Joy to the world, the Lord has come,
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and Nature sing."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first a large star and tell the story of the "Star in the East" (Matt. 2:2). Within the star print the name JESUS, and on each point of the star write the names of Christ which are recorded by Isaiah, in the Golden Text. Around the star place a large crown and speak of the King of Glory. Beneath the star and crown draw the outline of a globe, across which is placed a staff of music bearing the words "The Lord Has Come."

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



The key words of John's Gospel are "LIFE and LIGHT." John's Gospel is the revelation first, of the

majestic personality and power of JESUS CHRIST to give life. "I am come that they might have life." Second, The revelation of the marvellous glory of Christ's mission in the world, to give light. "I am the light of the world."

In the night of moral darkness in the world, there flashed a glimmering light from Bethlehem's star betokening the dawning of a glorious morning.

When Jesus was born there came the Light to the world, which should silently dispel the darkness of ignorance, superstition and sin, and usher in the eternal day.

When Simeon, the aged prophet, beheld in the Temple the child Jesus, he saw the "Light of the Gentiles and the glory of Israel" (Luke 2:32). Jesus said: "I am the Light and he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness" (John 8:12). Wherever Christ comes darkness flees away; He breaks oppression, elevates mankind; blesses the poor; saves the lost. In the light of God shall the world see the light of the glorified life.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a globe, and speak of the darkness of the world, through sin. Then draw a sunburst around the name JESUS, and speak of the True Light of the world. To emphasize the method in which Jesus brings His light and peace to all mankind, extend the rays to form the outline of a cross, and speak of the eternal sacrifice, through whose death we have life, and through whose life we have light.

EPOCHS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

For convenience in teaching the life of Jesus, it may be well to note the four great epochs or periods in His life, and represent them as four arches in the span from Bethlehem's inn to Bethany's glory, or from the Annunciation of His birth to His ascension. Into the epochs group the events of the period.

We will find them most conveniently marked in Luke's Gospel. From chapter 1 to chapter 4:13, we note the period of PREPARATION. Here we can group the events of the Annunciation, birth, boyhood, baptism, temptation, etc.

From chapter 4:13 to chapter 9:51, we have the period of POPULARITY, when the multitudes heard Jesus gladly. The disciples were chosen and instructed, and the foundation of the Church was laid.

From chapter 9:51 to chapter 20, we have the period of PERSECUTION, when the skies darkened, and the

gathering clouds of opposition portend the fierce storm soon to break in fury; enemies seek to ensnare Him, and the conspiracy is formed to destroy Jesus.

From chapter 20 to chapter 24 we have the detailed events of PASSION week. The symbolized sacrifice in the object lesson of the Lord's Supper (omitted in John's Gospel), the struggle in Gethsemane, the arrest, the trial, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension.

SUGGESTIONS:—It may be well to have the sketch of the open book and the arches drawn before the session of the school begins. Then have the chapters and periods marked during the progress of the review.

THE WAY OF LIFE

For centuries the voice of the prophet had been stilled, and the darkness of ignorance, superstition and sin enveloped the world in moral night. The Voice crying in the wilderness startled the world, while the vision of the Light brought joy to every believing heart.

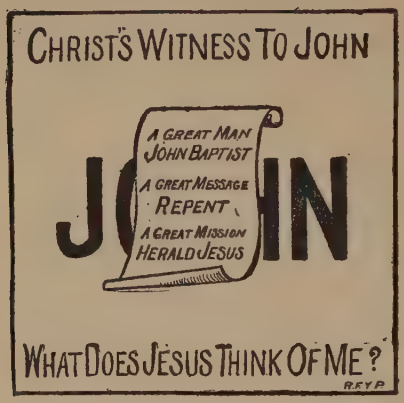
John the Baptist was the herald of Jesus. Our lesson presents to us the Man, his Mission, and his Message. First, The Man: "There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John." The great need of the world to-day is God-sent men, who shall realize their divine appointment and be conscious of their great responsibility.

Second, John's Mission: "The same came to bear witness of the light." The King's messenger on the most important business ever intrusted to man, the heralder of light amidst the darkness, and life amidst the death of the world. The world needs living witnesses of Jesus Christ bent on their holy mission of flooding the world with the Light of God.

Third, John's Message: "The Light of the world has come." "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Prepare by repentance for sin and obedience to His word.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a pathway outlined by the marks along the way, spelling "Repentance" and "Obedience." On the sign-post place the name of John, and in the pathway the name of Jesus.

DOUBTERS SILENCED



Christianity's greatest argument is the good which it does in the world. Matt. 11:7–14 has a two-fold application. First, an emphasis on the Divine Mission of Jesus and an assurance to a troubled Herald of the Christ; and second a great commendation of the life and ministry of John the Baptist.

John, a long time captive in a Roman prison, sent to Jesus to learn the truth concerning His Messiahship, which would dispel his own misgivings or the doubts of his former followers.

Jesus gave no other argument than the fruits of His hallowed ministry to prove Himself the Son of God. To the doubting, inquiring ones, He pointed to the opened eyes of the blind, the unstopped ears of the deaf, the lepers He had cleansed, the palsied made to walk, the dead whom He had raised, and to the fact that the poor and needy everywhere had the privileges and blessings of His gospel ministry.

He graciously answers the honest doubting of John, but condemns the disbelief of those who refuse to believe when they have every evidence of His love and power.

Jesus did not condemn the honest doubter, but gave special words of encouragement and commendation concerning John. Christ's witness concerning John was that he was a great "MAN." None greater to discern the Messiah or more faithful in proclaiming Him to the world. Second, Jesus commended John's fearlessness in condemning sin and in preaching Repentance. Third, Jesus made it plain that the holiest mission in the world is to be true Heralds of the Christ by lip and life and labour.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print in large letters the name J-O-H-N. Over the name draw a scroll and write on the scroll the words which indicate Christ's testimony concerning John. 1. "A great man," 2. "A great message, which John gave the world," 3. "The great mission, to be the herald of the Son of God." The practical question is "What is Christ's estimate of me?" "What does He think of thee?"

THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Herod was a king, ruling over Galilee and Perea. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, was treated as a criminal and imprisoned at Machærus. But the real criminal was upon the throne in the palace, rather than in the prison. John, with pure heart and faithful ministry, rejoiced in the favour of God; Herod with blackened life and guilty conscience dwelt in mortal fear of God. Herod reigned for a season and revelled in feasts and pleasures here. John received the crown of immortal life and "pleasures forevermore." True pleasures are sinless. The carnal heart seeks the pleasures of the world which have in them the sting of death.

This little sketch represents two crowns; one a crown of glory for John the martyr; the other, the crown of the wicked, sensual ruler. For every crown of glory there must be a cross of sacrifice. John the Baptist suffered for Christ that he might reign with Him in

glory. Herod had a broken crown because he had a bad character.

SUGGESTIONS:—The cross and the crown are inseparable. John lovingly bears the cross for his Master, and receives the crown of glory. Draw first a cross. Around the cross draw a crown encircling the name of the faithful herald. Continue the lower part of the cross to represent a sword; indicate the crown of Herod being shattered by the sword.

THE ARK OF SAFETY

God's token of His covenant with Noah was the radiant bow set in the cloud. It is a sign whose significance is almost universal, as nearly every race has some tradition concerning the "Floods of many waters," and the bow in the cloud is in some way associated with their early history. God's covenant extended to all the earth, but its rich and wonderful promises were for the

chosen Israel whom He loved, and for the faithful in Christ in all the ages.

This lesson on a deluged world because of sin, with an ark of safety through obedience, and a bow of promise for continued fidelity to God, points us to the Lord Jesus Christ, the New Testament Ark of safety from the floods of sin, and to the covenant promises for the faithful children of God.

Dr. A. T. Pierson suggests that "The door in the ancient Ark was in the form of a cross," as the entire parable in action in the Old Testament points to the Ark of safety and the door of hope in the new covenant.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of extended waters. Then sketch the representation of a mound of earth in the midst of the waters, and the outline of the Ark. Point the lesson to Christ the Saviour under the New Covenant, and quickly print the name C-H-R-I-S-T, as indicated in the sketch.

If desired the outline of the bow of promise can be drawn above the Ark. Its seven prismatic colours, representing the seven precious promises which are ours through Christ our Lord, may be written on the bow, as follows:

P—ardon;
R—emembrance;
O—wnership;
M—ercy;
I—nstruction;
S—alvation;
E—ternal Life.

Apply the lesson: Come thou into the Ark; Now is the day of salvation.

A SIGN AND A SHIELD

Two ordinances are in an essential manner identified with the Christian religion. They mark the beginning and the close of Christ's earthly ministry. The first is BAPTISM, the second is THE LORD'S SUPPER.

The baptism of Jesus was a public witness to the world of the method by which He was to purchase man's redemption by His death and burial and resurrection. The Lord's Supper shadows forth the destiny and desires of all who lovingly trust and implicitly obey Him.

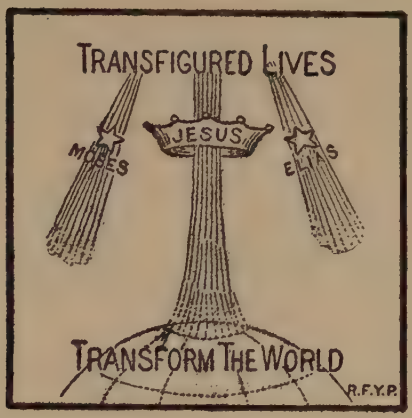
SUGGESTIONS:—Write the word BAPTISM in large letters. Draw the outline of a triangle (in scarlet and light blue colour) and as each thought of the significance of baptism is developed, print the words in the triangle DEATH—BURIAL—RESURRECTION.

Following the baptism of Jesus came the event of His temptation in the wilderness. Let none think they are

beyond temptation. In the Paradise of Eden the tempter came; to the holy Son of God the tempter came; we may not escape his suggestions of evil, but through Him who overcame the tempter we may also overcome. The tempted in all ages have had a way to escape. Jesus used the shield of God's word and warded off all the darts of the adversary.

SUGGESTIONS:—Speak of temptations; how they come to us through the eye, pride of life, lusts of the flesh. Draw a shield (light blue, with white edges). Speak of prayer, praise, meditation, service, etc., as shields. Jesus used Scripture to successfully resist the tempter. Draw a Bible (white with scarlet outlines). When the first temptation came Jesus said, "It is written." Again and again the word of God was His shield against the tempter.

TRANSFIGURATION GLORIES



Blessed privileges, precious memories are the mountain-top experiences of the children of God. It is sweet to walk with Christ in lowliness of life's duties, but it is an eternal inspiration to be near Him in His loftiest experiences. While the mountain-top visions may be privileges, it is our duty to descend to the valleys of human need and minister to the suffering, sorrowing, dying ones of earth. The loftiest soul visions of Christ come through prayerful communion with Him. The holiest ministries for our Lord come in our largest service with Him and for Him in the world. While the saints are receiving the mountain vision the world is waiting for them to bring the mountain-top experiences to the vales below. If we are privileged to ascend with Jesus for an inspiration, we must descend with Him and share in His service of saving the world. Valley ministries must ever follow mountain visions.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a crown, bearing the name Jesus. About the crown draw rays in the form of a cross and on either side make stars, bearing the names Moses and Elias. Beneath the cross draw the outline of a globe and apply the lesson that transfigured lives are needed to transform the world.

THE CROWNING OF LOVE

Real love will seek and find some method of expression. It cannot be hidden. God expressed His love for man in the gift of Jesus. Christ revealed His love for the sinner by His death on the cross. Mary manifested her love for Jesus by her richest and sweetest gift for Him.

In breaking the alabaster box and anointing the Saviour with the precious ointment, she unconsciously revealed her heart of love for her Lord. She crowned

Him with love while the world crowned Him with thorns.

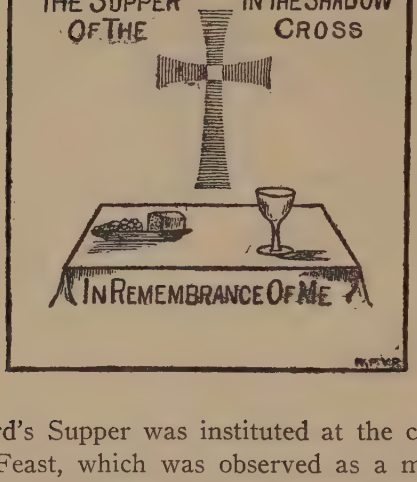
She did { What she could. / here she could. / hen she could.

A brief outline for the lesson may be summarized as follows:

1st. Love in Action.	She gave her best to Jesus.
2d. Love Defended.	"Let her alone, she hath wrought a good work upon Me."
3d. Love Rewarded.	"This that she hath done shall be told throughout the whole world, for a memorial of her."

SUGGESTIONS:—Print first in large letters the name JESUS. Then draw a hand pouring from a vase the gift, making the drops of the ointment, falling on the name "Jesus," form a crown. On the crown write the word LOVE. Practical question, Am I giving my best, my choicest, my most complete gift to Him who gave His best and all for me?

OUR LORD'S MEMORIALS



The Lord's Supper was instituted at the close of the Passover Feast, which was observed as a memorial of deliverance from Egypt. The Passover was a Jewish memorial of a national deliverance. The Lord's Supper is also in the truest sense a memorial service. "This do in remembrance of me." But our Lord's memorial commemorates a person more than an event. "This do in remembrance of ME." Jesus does not take the place of the destroying angel, but of the sacrificial lamb. The lamb's body was broken; his blood was shed; his body eaten. Jesus is our spiritual Lamb, our spiritual Life. Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us. He is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He suffered and died that He might deliver us from the bondage of sin.

In this sacred service we can get nearer to Christ than in any other. We seem to enter the Holy of Holies of

the temple and "Abide under the shadow of the Almighty" when we engage in this memorial service. A sacred hush falls upon our hearts when we behold the emblems of His broken body and shed blood. To partake of these emblems without remembering Jesus is to partake unworthily.

To remember Him means to have in mind His beautiful and perfect life; His unceasing labours for the good of men; His wonderful love to make us better and more perfect; His condescension to leave the Temple of God and dwell in the temple of man, to suffer and die for us. It means a remembrance of all He did and said, of all He taught and wrought. Pull aside the curtain and look beyond the symbol of the sacrifice to the suffering Saviour. Remember what He said when He was on earth, what He does for us now, what He has promised to do. As we sit at the table of our Lord, let us close our eyes to all the distracting things of the world and affectionately remember Him.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a table and the plate of broken bread. Speak of the body of our Lord and what the broken bread signifies to us. Draw the cup and speak of His blood. On the table write the words "In remembrance of me." Then place an outline cross in shadow above the Bible and write "A Supper in the Shadow of the Cross."

THE CUP OF BLESSING

The most difficult task of life is to perfectly and completely surrender our lives to the will of God. Mr. Moody often said God was waiting to show the world what He would do through a life that was wholly consecrated to Him and filled with the Spirit of God.

The garden prayer in Gethsemane illustrates more forcibly, perhaps, than any preceding act, the character and the consecration of our Lord Jesus. "I came not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." As the tree has its years of silent growing before it is clothed with blossoms and fruit, so the silent years of Christ were for the working out of the human plans and purposes of His great mission.

At Galilee, the "Sun of Righteousness" arose when the first miracle was wrought. At Golgotha we behold the climax of Christ's redemptive work. At Gethsemane we discover a mighty conflict between the human and

divine elements of His character. Here love for the souls of sinful men triumphed over every human desire, and in sublime submission to the Father's will we behold the Saviour of the world. Without submission, no sacrifice. Without sacrifice, no salvation. It is a long way from Galilee's first miracle to Gethsemane's conflict, but only a step from Gethsemane to Golgotha. Sacrificing for God is always near to submission to God.

The richest glory of the Christian life is submission to the Father's will. As Jesus reached for and accepted the "cup" which the Father gave, so may we accept all things coming from our Father's hand. To submit may be to suffer; but if we suffer for Him, we shall rejoice with Him.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a hand accepting a cup fashioned as a cross. On the cup write the words "God's Will." Talk of the things which God may desire of us, and which may seem hard to do or to bear. Are we willing to accept all that the Father shall give? May God make us "willing to be willing" to do His will. Beyond the cup which He offers is the crown He is waiting to bestow.

DISCIPLESHIP FALSE AND TRUE

In our lesson to-day there stands out in bold relief two characters: Jesus—Judas; one holy, the other hated. One excites our pity, our love, our reverence, our adoration, our worship. The other fills us with sadness that there could have existed such a libel on manhood.

The picture lesson gives the shadow of the false disciple's life. Every disciple points to Jesus, but some are standing in such relationship to Him that they cast a shadow on His matchless life and love.

Like the betrayer of old, by envy, bitterness, strife, self-exaltation, and greed, they overshadow the mercy and forgiveness, the gentleness and peace and love of Jesus.

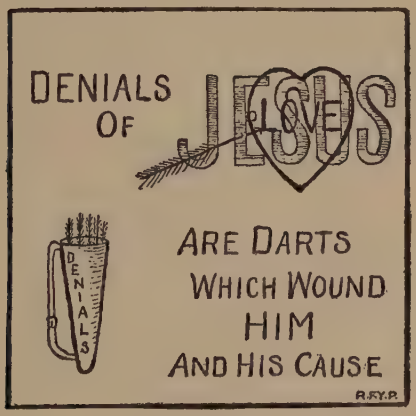
It is said of the great sculptor Michael Angelo, that when at work, he wore over his forehead, fastened on his artist's cap, a lighted candle, in order that no shadow of himself should fall upon his work.

The world's cry is, "We would see Jesus." God

grant that we may never betray Him by a look, a word, a thought, an action, a kiss, nor cast a shadow upon His fair name.

SUGGESTIONS:—First draw a picture of a sign-post bearing the word "D-I-S-C-I-P-L-E," then print in large letters the name JESUS. In developing the thought of Judas betraying Christ make the great shadow across the name, and write the word BE-TRAYER.

THE DART THAT WOUNDS



Peter's denial of Jesus is the one great shadow on his life. An eminent divine has said that "men fall in private life long before they fall in public." The great tree of the forest which falls when the tempest sweeps over it shows that the worm has long been eating its way into the heart of the tree. The decay has weakened its power to resist the storm. Secret forces of evil

weaken our powers of resistance when great temptations come to us.

The first step in Peter's fall was not in the hour of his denial of Jesus. His downward steps may be noted, 1st, in his boasted self-righteousness. "Though all men fail Thee, I will prove true." 2d. In sleeping at his post of duty. 3d. In following Jesus afar off. 4th. In his associating with the enemies of his Lord. 5th. In warming himself at the fire which Christ's enemies had kindled. 6th. Forsaking and denying Jesus. 7th. In repeated denials and oaths.

Though Peter was unworthy yet Jesus looked upon him and loved him. That look of Jesus was full of sorrow, pity, wonderment, reproach, remembrance, compassion and love.

"He saw me ruined by the fall
Yet loved me notwithstanding all."

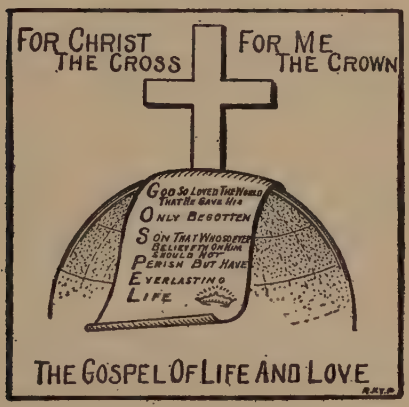
He that will be Christ's disciple must deny *himself*, not his Lord, and follow Him *closely*, not afar off. The broken command of Jesus, "Watch," led to many sorrows for Him in the closing hours of His life. His disciples slept when He had commanded them to "Watch." Sleep, and our Lord is betrayed: sleep, and He is arrested: sleep, and He is condemned: sleep, and He is crucified: sleep, and we are condemned.

In the conscious look of Jesus, Peter saw himself a false witness, a coward, a sinner; and he realized that his denial was a poisoned dart which deeply wounded his Lord. Instead of a true friend and a bright and shining light Peter's light was hidden under a bushel. But thanks be to Jesus for the loving look of compas-

sion which sent Peter out to weep over his wrong-doing, and to bury his sin.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a quiver filled with poisoned arrows and feathered darts. Represent the arrow marked "Peter's Denial," wounding the name Jesus. Apply the lesson—Am I wounding Jesus?

THE COST OF THE CROWN OF LIFE



The supreme thought of the New Testament message is Jesus Christ the world's Saviour and Redeemer. The saddest thought of man is sin—the holiest thought of God for man is salvation through Jesus our Lord.

The heart of the gospel message is found in John 3:16,—"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Here is the good news heralded to earth by the heavenly mes-

sengers, giving the gospel message in the golden text of the New Testament.

1	GIVER:	God so loved the world that He gave His
2	GIFT:	Only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not
3	CONDITION:	Perish, but have
4	REWARD:	Everlasting Life.

THE

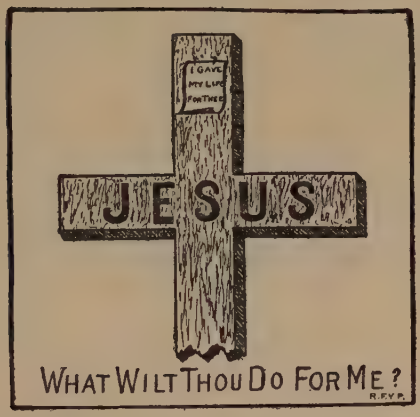
The epitome and the personal application of this wonderful message for each individual may be arranged as follows:

G—od's
O—nly
S—on
P—urchased
E—ternal
L—ife.

FOR ME

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the outline of a globe, and over it place a scroll bearing the Gospel Message as arranged above, forming the acrostic G-O-S-P-E-L. Above the scroll place a cross in shadowed lines.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS



The Christian world stands silently and solemnly before the cross, which symbolizes the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must realize that the sacrifice of Calvary was not made possible by the sins of His persecutors only; *our* sins formed a part of that tragedy. It is possible that our sins were the heavier part of the burden which crushed Him to earth.

We sin in the face of conscious knowledge that Jesus is the world's Redeemer; the enemies who slew Him did not know or believe Him to be the Saviour of the world. The greater our light the larger our responsibility.

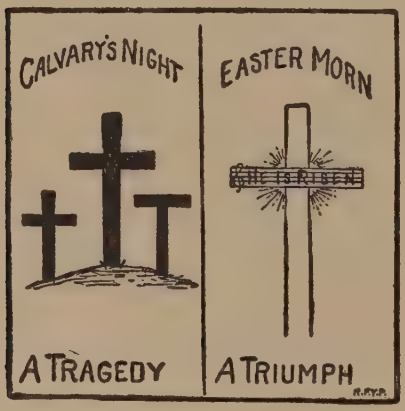
For you and me Christ bore the burden of a lost world. But deeper than His past sufferings is His present sorrow when we reject or deny our Lord in these days of gospel light and liberty, and thus crucify Him afresh. Julius Cæsar, reeling under the cowardly assaults of his conspirators, was not crushed and hopeless till he saw his own blood dripping from the dagger

of Brutus, whom he loved as a brother. "The unkindest cut of all" is the wound at the hand of a cherished friend. Sinner, Jesus died that you might live. Will you not give Him your love in return for His life?

"I suffered much for thee,
What hast thou done for Me?"

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the outline of a cross, and speak of the death of Christ as essential to the redemption of the world. He gave His life that we might have life eternal.

THE CROSS AND ITS CAROL



The resurrection of Jesus is a sublime fact as well as His supreme miracle. The importance of the resurrection is as fundamental in the purpose of God as Christ's incarnation and crucifixion, hence the providential care given to the confirmation of the fact.

From the open tomb of Jesus Christ there gleams a religion for the world, having a song for every lip, a joy for every heart, and a hope for every life. Calvary had its darkness and its tragedy of the cross. Easter morning had its triumphant dawn and its message of hope for the world.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of a landscape on which is placed three crosses. Speak of the night of sorrow to the world, when Christ was crucified on Calvary. Then draw a cross bearing a staff of music and the words "He is Risen," and speak of the day-dawn after the world's night.

THE PORTAL OF BLESSING

The Beatitudes may be likened to a palace, the vestibule to a sanctuary, or the entrance to the temple of a holy life. The great words of comfort and blessing of

the Sermon on the Mount were addressed to the disciples of our Lord.

They do not embrace all of Christ's teachings concerning the Kingdom of God, but they beautifully express the fundamental principles for Christian living. It is implied that those who are capable of such conditions as Jesus describes must have characters which alone can produce such conditions. The blessings are for those who have heard the voice of Jesus, and forsaking the world, have followed Him.

The words were not addressed to the world at large, nor to the "multitude," but "when he was set his *disciples* came unto him, and he opened his mouth and taught them" (Matt. 5:1).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of several columns at the entrance to a temple. Above the columns draw an arch and inscribe upon it the word BEATITUDES. On the columns write, in order, the conditions of life named by the Master, upon which the eternal blessings are promised.

THE HEALING HAND

The beginning of the ministry of our Lord is characterized by the faithful, fearless preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, the calling of the humble toilers to be His followers, and the healing of the multitudes. His three-fold service was in "Preaching, Teaching, and Healing."

Wherever He went minds were enlightened, homes were brightened, hearts were gladdened, the sorrowing were comforted, the sick were restored, the diseased were healed, the dead were raised, and God was made known as a merciful Father.

Into whatever city He entered His voice was heard in "Glad tidings of peace." The crowds thronged Him to hear the gracious words which fell from His lips, but the most convincing proofs of His divinity were found in the miracles which He wrought. The ministry begun in Galilee is broadening every day. The

hands, the voices, the tears, the services of Christians are still a part of the ministry of Jesus to a sinning, sorrowing world.

Our Holy Land is not in Palestine, but it is found wherever we are rendering true service to the world in the name of Jesus. Palestine was Holy Land because the Son of Man hallowed the soil by His Christly deeds for mankind. But to-day the Holy Land is within the reach of our own hands, within the length of our footsteps, within the sound of our voices, and we can hallow the ground on which we stand by our Christlike service for the world.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the outline of a heart and write in it some of the ills of life. Above the heart draw a hand as if extended in benediction, representing the hand of our Lord. Now erase the words from the heart, and indicate them as falling out of the life, as Jesus bids them depart.

The practical lessons to be taught are that Jesus healed diseases, cast out demons, and took away sin from those who sought His help. He has promised to help and to save all who truly come unto Him to-day.

THE SPREADING KINGDOM

In the three beautiful parables of our lesson Jesus teaches in a simple and effective manner the one great lesson of the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

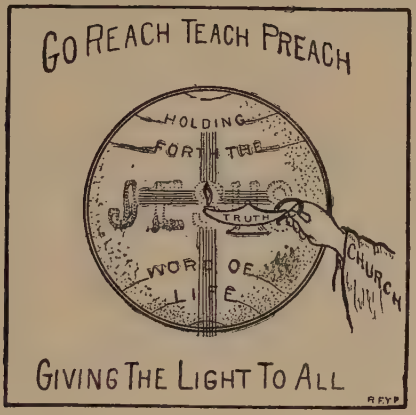
"So is the Kingdom of God," small as a tiny seed in the beginning, but secretly, silently, steadily it grows day by day filling the world with its benign influences and flooding the world with light. Of holy birth, with manger cradle the Kingly Christ began His mission. As the years have rolled on His devout followers have been spreading His light throughout the world, until now every part of the globe is receiving the light.

With marvellous rapidity the Christ spirit is being extended throughout the world; even amidst the din of battle in the world's greatest conflict the voice of God is heard and nations are turning their thoughts to Jesus Christ through whom alone a lasting Peace must come.

Since Jesus came the world has changed. Mountains have changed their forms, oceans changed their boundaries, rivers changed their courses, great empires have become a memory, nations born and perished. Continents discovered and peopled. Alone the Gospel of Christ has remained the same, moving on through the centuries, lifting the lowly, helping the needy, saving the lost, glorifying the world. CHRISTIANITY shall continue the hallowed work of dispelling the darkness of sin and sorrow until all the world shall be filled with the glory of God.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first a dark globe and place in the center the name CHRIST and speak of the humble beginning of the Christian dispensation. Second, draw another globe partly in shadow, and speak of the progress of the Gospel in the world and of the faithful ministries of the disciples of our Lord in spreading the light. Third, draw another globe in light indicative of the spread of Christianity until all the world has become the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

GIVING THE LIGHT TO THE WORLD



If we are Christians we must have a missionary spirit, and seek to make the Church of Christ a missionary body. The disciples of the early Church were first called Christians at Antioch, where they began their missionary labours. We, too, must heed the Master's command, "Go ye into all the world and preach my Gospel to every creature."

All effort in evangelization is missionary effort: the work is one and the field is the world.

GO REACH TEACH PREACH to EACH **The Gospel of Salvation**

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a hand, marked CHURCH, holding a lighted lamp, marked TRUTH. Draw rays of light gleaming from the flame in the form of a cross.

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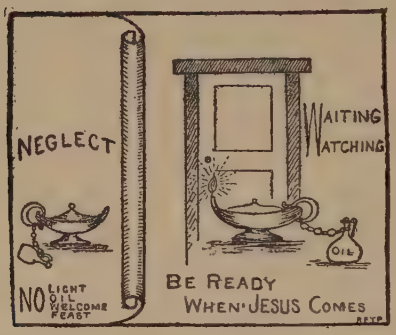
Around these draw the outline of a globe to indicate the broad field of Christian service. A missionary Church gives the light of God's saving truth to all the world.

CHRISTIAN PREPAREDNESS



Next to the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins is perhaps the most familiar of all the New Testament illustrations used by our Lord Jesus.

Eternity alone can reveal the value of a lost opportunity. In teaching the lesson of watchfulness and its related blessings the Master uses an oriental wedding occasion with the lamps and lamp bearers of the wedding guests.

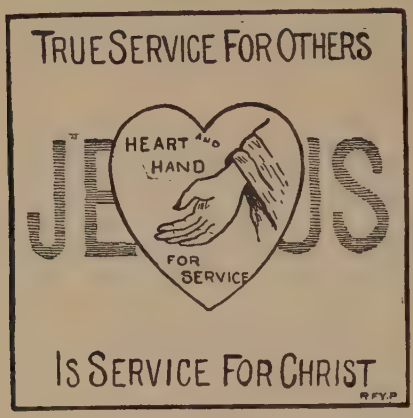
First notice the importance of having *lamps,* which may carry the light; second, the lamps must be *trimmed* that they may give all the light possible; third, they must be *burning brightly,* giving out their best light to the world around them; fourth, they must be carefully *watched* and *cared for,* that they be not allowed to burn

out from lack of attention or oil supply; or the light be not extinguished by adverse circumstances; fifth, we must be *wakeful, waiting* and *watching,* our lamps trimmed and burning, that we may be ready for any service whatever, wherever, and whenever the Master shall call.

Every opportunity of being good or doing good is an open door of blessing. The door may open unexpectedly, quickly, by repeated calls or entreaty, easily or with difficulty, and it may open for a brief moment only, and then be closed forever. How important that we be ready to enter when the door shall open.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first an open door and speak of the many calls for Christian life and service, and the opportunities presented for great blessings in the Master's name. Draw the picture of the lamp, and speak of the Christian as a bright and shining light, ready for any service whenever and wherever the Lord shall call. Draw also an unlighted lamp and speak of blessings lost through neglect.

HEART AND HAND FOR SERVICE



One of the great lessons we ought to learn early in our Christian life is to be ready and eager to serve our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. When we remember how eager He was to be about His Father's business (saving the world), and how ready He was to serve us even to the giving of His most precious life, we ought to have heart and hand ready for any service for Him.

I do not believe there has been any development in the principles of Christianity; but I think there has been a marked change in our conception of what Christianity is.

In the early history of the Church great emphasis was laid on the "**CREED.**" It is very important that we have definite and settled convictions of truth; but it is possible for men to discuss the creeds and the formulators of them so as to overlook the Christ. In 1 Corinthians 3:4, 5, 6, Paul rebukes those who could not understand

that spiritual increase was neither in creed nor creature, but in the Creator.

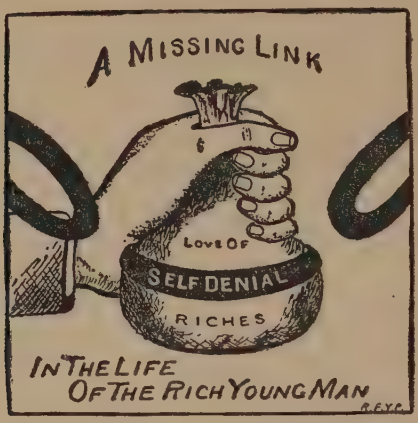
As the Church advanced, great stress was laid upon the **experience.** Not only what a man believed, but what he knew of Christ. Hence we hear so much of "experimental knowledge" in the religious life. But in these days an additional test of discipleship is demanded, that is, a **Christian life.** Christianity is not only *good* but *good for something.* The world knows we are true disciples of our Lord not only by what we *say* but what we *do* for Him.

Napoleon once entered a cathedral and saw twelve silver statues representing the twelve apostles. He commanded that they be taken from their pedestals and coined into money, that they might go about the world doing good as their Master did. When Paul relates his experience, he intimates that his real life and real usefulness began when, in the hour of his conversion, he cried "What wilt thou have me to *do.*"

The lesson to-day emphasizes the fact that true service for our fellow-men is real service for Christ. "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first an open hand to indicate willing service. Around the hand draw a heart, and speak of the importance of having willing hearts as well as willing hands ready for service in the Master's name. Then make in shaded letters the name J-E-S-U-S and emphasize the lesson that true service for others is real service for Christ.

THE MISSING LINK



A young man in the vigour of life came running to Jesus. He was rich, cultured, moral, respectful—but something was lacking in his life. He must have had many lovable qualities of mind and heart, for Jesus loved him, but he went away without

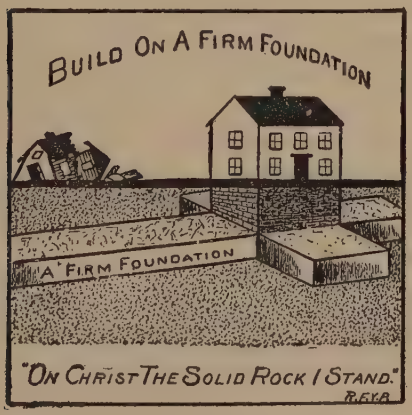
C—hange of heart,
H—ope,
R—ighteousness of life,
I—niquity put away,
S—alvation,
T—rust in Christ.

It was a crisis in that young man's life when standing in the presence of Jesus Christ, he listened to the words, "Take up thy cross and follow me." Before him lay a life of usefulness, honour, power and life eternal. He turned away from Christ and lost all which Christ alone could give. Unwillingness to deny self seems to have

been the missing link in his character, and it lost to him the crown of life—"What lack I yet?" A personal, practical, pertinent question to be asked by each scholar to-day.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a large hand grasping a bag marked riches—over this draw the link in a chain marked "Self-denial." Let this represent the missing link in the character of the young man in our lesson.

BUILDING ON THE ROCK OF AGES



In the building of a house it is important that we look well to the foundations. No life is a success which is not built on Jesus Christ. He is the "Rock of Ages;" "the Sure Foundation;" "All other ground is sinking sand."

The emphasis of the lesson (Matt. 7:24–27) is not upon the carelessness of the foolish man who builded his

house on the sand foundation, but to the great wisdom of the one who dug deeply, earnestly, persistently, and at much cost until he reached the firm rock foundation, on which he securely rested and builded his house.

If we shall have a character which will stand the test of adversity, trials, sorrows, bereavements, and be strong and true amidst the worldliness and unfaithfulness about us, we must build it on the only true foundation—Jesus Christ.

I once lived in a section of the country, the heart of the anthracite coal belt. The mine workings are far beneath the surface, but they run under miles of our streets and under thousands of building blocks. It is necessary before a residence or public building is erected that experts examine the pillars in the mines and determine the foundations before the work of building shall be undertaken. If we shall build for time and for eternity we must know that we are building on the eternal Rock Christ Jesus our Lord. The life built on Christ and His truth cannot fail nor fall.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a sectional piece of ground. On the surface draw first a wrecked building on the sandy soil. Then draw a finished building, having its foundations reaching to the rock cross beneath.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

LIVING TO SERVE

The results of Christ's manifold ministries in preaching and teaching, healing and helping mankind can never be computed.

His wonderful messages of life, His gracious teachings of doctrine, His marvellous miracles of healing, and matchless life of love and service impressed the multitudes that He was the teacher come from God.

The emphasis of His ministry during these days of testing, when He was already walking in the shadow of the cross, was to lead His disciples to know Him as the Lord of life and light, the real Anointed of the Father, the world's Redeemer. A second emphasis was the training of His chosen ones for service in His name. This lesson may well be devoted to the thought of the Crowning Joy of Service. As the Master served to save, so His disciples have been saved to serve. "Behold I have given you an example, as I have done so do ye, that the world may know that I am the Christ of God." "As my heart and

hand have ever been extended for the uplifting and saving of mankind, so shall ye labour, and in faithful service win the crown of life." "Your crowning joy is in your unselfish and devoted ministry in my name." "Let no man take thy crown."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw an open hand, to indicate the helpful ministries of the Master. Around the hand draw the outline of a crown bearing the words "Live to serve," and write the words "As I have done, so do ye." In service for Christ is the crowning joy of the Christian life.

THE GOSPEL NET

God calls *busy* people to serve Him and promotes them in His work. Simon and Andrew, James and John were busy in their fisherman's life when Jesus called them to the service for Him as "Fishers of men." Lazy people and drones never accomplish any great work for the

Master; His service demands the most active, earnest, enthusiastic, devoted, loving, unselfish ministry of which the mind can conceive.

Among the many lessons suggested for our consideration, we note the following:

The world is to be won by the Gospel of Christ, and by men devoted to His service. The disciples whom Jesus called forsook their fishing nets, and with the Gospel went forth to win men. If the world is saved it will be by the

G—lorious,
O—verflowing,
S—aving,
P—recious,
E—ternal,
L—ife-giving GOSPEL of the Son of God,

and by the help of the human gospel of

G—entleness,
O—bedience,
S—incerity,
P—rudence,
E—ntreaty,
L—ove.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw an illustration of a net. Make the handle of the net in the form of a cross, bearing the words "The Love of God." This is the only force that can truly win men to a holy life:—The Love of God.

THE CALL TO THE REAPERS

Daily we should pray as our Lord Jesus taught us, "Thy Kingdom come."

But it is mockery to utter this prayer day by day and not strive to aid the coming of that Kingdom for which we pray. This prayerful *request* from God is also a prayerful *promise* to God that we will help to bring the "KINGDOM OF HIS GOSPEL" to the benighted ones at home and abroad; that we will help to bring the "KINGDOM OF HIS GRACE" to the hearts of men: that we may bring the "KINGDOM OF HIS GLORY" to be our rest and joy and peace. The way must be prepared for the coming of Jesus. The early disciples began this missionary work, then the "other seventy" of to-day's lesson were sent forth in His name; then others and still others until thousands of the Heralds of the Cross now proclaim the truth of the Coming Kingdom. Though so many are toiling for the Master, we hear the sorrowful cry as

of old, "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few." Whenever we go in His name, Jesus will follow to bless the work done for Him. Christ's labourers must be, 1, One in interest. 2, They must be united. 3, They must be harmonious. 4, They must work in the shadow of the cross.

Self must be lost in loving service. We cannot compel men to accept Christ; but we can warn them of peril; can give them the message of truth; can offer them peace.

"He that goeth forth with weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Over and over, yes deeper and deeper.
My heart is pierced through with life's sorrowing cry;
But the tears of the sower and the songs of the reaper
Shall mingle together in joy by-and-by.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw in large outline figures the number 70. In the figures write the words "Sent Forth," "Two by Two." Beneath the figures draw the shadow of the cross and print on it the words IN HIS NAME. Draw also the suggestion of a globe bearing a ripened harvest and apply the lesson, "The harvest is great." Are we ready to labour?

A GIFT FOR A GRACE

One of the greatest earthly blessings is a childlike spirit. Before the disciples of Jesus fully comprehended the nature of the Kingdom of God they had many discussions concerning it. But to teach them more fully about the nature of the Kingdom and the manner in which it could be entered, Jesus gave His disciples an object lesson on human greatness, both touching and powerful. Placing a little child in their midst Jesus taught His disciples that whosoever shall be great among us must possess a spirit as humble as a little child.

The Kingdom of God must be entered by a

C—heerful,
H—opeful,
I—nnocent,
L—oving,
D—ocile,
L—oyal,
I—nquiring,
K—ind,
E—arnest,

SPIRIT

PRAY FOR A CHILD LIKE SPIRIT
PERFORM CHRIST SERVICE.

From the affectionate interest which He so often manifested in children, we learn that Jesus

L—EADS
O—BSERVES
V—ALUES
E—MBRACES
S—HEPHERDS

THE YOUNG

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a hand extending a crown, which bears the words "A CHILDLIKE SPIRIT."

COLOUR HINTS:—Make the crown *orange* colour, with *red* outline. Make the rays *yellow*, hand *light pink* with *white* outline; make the letters *light blue* shading down to white.

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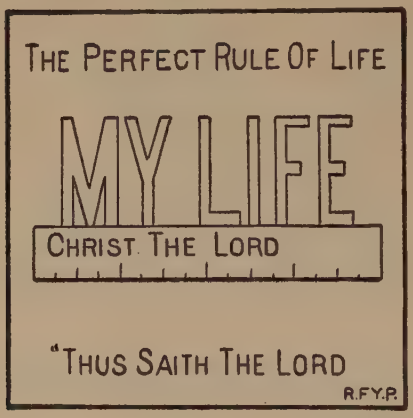
THE PERFECT GUIDE OF LIFE



Our lesson throws new light on old laws. Jesus did not come to destroy the law but to cast a halo about it and make the law of God a thing of life.

When He came multitudes could repeat every law given by Moses at the command of God. Children lisped these laws as they were taught to speak. Young and old repeated the commandments at morning devotions, noontide service, and at the temple worship in the eventide. But lip and life did not agree. Their piety did not square with their professions.

Jesus taught that the true rule of life was to be found in His character and conduct. He not only gave life, but He gave a model and a plan for living. "Whatsoever ye see in me, do." "For I have given you an example" (John 13:15).

The Master did not enumerate all of the Mosaic laws, nor expound their relation to His Kingdom, but He gave

the one great key-thought which should be the rule and guide of life in all things and at all times.

"Be ye perfect as your Father is perfect." Let Christ be the rule of life and conduct. Direct thinking, speaking and acting by His standard of truth and righteousness. No life ever failed which took Jesus Christ as guard and guide.

SUGGESTIONS:—Write in large letters the words MY LIFE. Beneath these words draw a rule bearing the name of Christ. Apply the lesson, "Be ye perfect" as He is perfect. Square your life by His life and teachings.

THE PRICELESS PEARL.

In this lesson we have a great sermon by a great preacher, with a great application. Jesus is the great preacher and, using the beautiful and costly pearl as an illustration, He gives a practical sermon which has fur-

nished food for religious thought for nineteen centuries of time. Every gift of God is a precious boon to mankind. Daily we are receiving gifts from the outstretched hand of our heavenly Father, every one of which may be likened unto goodly pearls. Among the many of these pearls as gifts beyond compare are riches, honour, strength, wisdom, health, etc. We may have all of these and yet lack the pearl of greatest price, without which all others are but fading joys. The priceless pearl is Jesus Christ and eternal life through His name. To obtain this gift beyond all human estimate we may well sacrifice, if necessary, every other gift that we may obtain it. This gift may be mine and thine.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a necklace of pearls, arranging the pearls in the form of a crown. As a center or chief charm draw the representation of a great pearl, on which write the name Jesus.

OPEN THE DOOR OF THY HEART

It was evidently the purpose of God that His chosen people, the Jews, being fitted by a knowledge of the Scriptures, and by religious training, should give the message of salvation to the world.

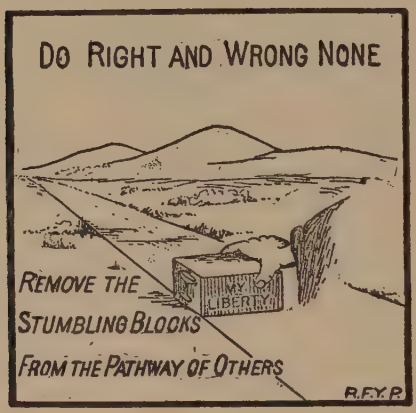
But the door of the Jewish heart was closed to the Gospel of Christ except to a few who embraced the truth, and the Master and His message were rejected. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Then said His disciples, "Lo, we turn to the Gentiles, for so hath the Lord commanded us." "I have set thee for a light unto the Gentiles."

The light of God's precious truth shines for all who will receive it, whether Gentile or Jew, bond or free. Do not close thy heart against the truth and so reject the Saviour and His love. The "A, B, C" of the Gospel for me:

I WILL A-ccept B-elieve C-onfess **JESUS.**

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first a heart with the representation of a closed door. Draw also a heart having an open door. Between them make the picture of an open Bible on which is placed a lighted lamp with rays forming a cross, indicating that the light of Christ's Gospel truth is shining for all who will open the door of the heart to receive it.

REMOVE THE STUMBLING BLOCKS



While man may be granted full liberty to do as he pleases, his liberty ends where the rights and privileges of another begin.

Fire is a good servant, but unrestrained it is a great destroying agent. Liberty is a great blessing, but unrestricted it brings sorrow.

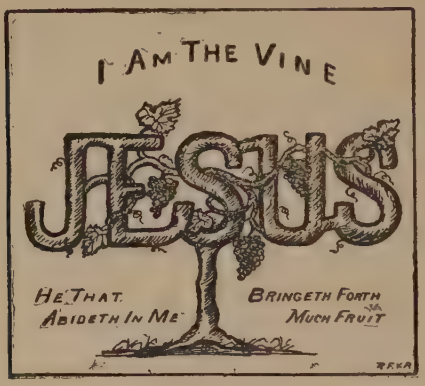
Some things we do which perhaps may not in themselves be morally wrong, yet if by doing them we en-

courage others to wrong-doing and so place a "stumbling block" in their pathway, we sin, for we dare not do that which will cause another to fall. We should voluntarily and cheerfully give up that which will harm self or wound others. Our personal responsibility is the bridle to our liberty.

We may be free to act as we please but we must not place an obstacle in the pathway of others over which they may stumble. Abstain from all meats and drinks, pleasures and profits which will bring harm to thy life or cause thy neighbour to fall.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a landscape and a roadway; place on the pathway a representation of a large block marked "Personal liberty"; then make the picture of a hand removing this block from the pathway, and apply the lesson which Paul teaches us to-day: "Let not thy liberty be a stumbling block in the way of others."

THE FRUITFUL VINE



How suggestive is the object lesson given by our Lord in John 15. He says, "I am the Vine." He does not choose the oak, the king of the forest trees, nor the palm, the emblem of victory, to symbolize His life, but He chooses the VINE, emblem of HUMILITY. The vine gives life and strength to the branches. The vine shares in the fruitage, but the fruit is on the branches. The branch cannot bear fruit of itself (v. 4), it must be in vital union with the vine. The ripened fruit is the life of the vine.

Whether the words of Jesus were suggested by the golden vine above the beautiful gate of the temple, or by the rustling leaves above the vine-clad cottage of the Bethany home, or by the wine in the cup at the supper, we may never know; but His one thought was the union of Christ and the believer. In Him the branches would have life and fruitage, while the fruitless branches must decay and die. But fruitage means glory also; not alone the glory of the branch but of the vine. "Herein

is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit"; choice fruit; in many clusters, many years, much glory.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a vine, so arranged that the great trunk spells out the words JESUS. Draw branches of the vine intertwining these letters, and on the branches place the leaves and tendrils and the clusters of fruit.

COLOUR HINTS:—Make the vine *brown* and *white*, branches *green* and *white*, fruit *purple* with colourings of *red* and *white*.

THE PERFECT BALANCE

The nobleman spoken of in John 4:46 had learned of many wonderful things which Jesus had done, and believed He was able to heal his son, who was critically ill.

Exerting his faith to the limit of his knowledge, he came to Christ. Small belief was increased to great faith; Jesus honoured his faith and restored the sick boy to health.

Oh, for a sublime faith which will help us to trust the word and the power of our Lord!

The nobleman's faith was in all proportion to his great need. While man is a mighty creature he is ever in need. The goodness of God is manifest in a readiness to supply our needs.

1st. He supplies our daily needs. 2d. He supplies our special needs. 3d. His supply is not according to our need, but "According to the riches of his glory" (Phil. 4: 19). As the ocean fills the bay and inlet, so His supply is sufficient for our every need. If there shall be an equipoise in life let your faith in Christ be in full proportion to your specific needs.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a pair of balances; in one scale write "MY NEEDS"; in the other write "MY FAITH." Make the standard, or upright and cross-beam, of the scales in the form of a cross.

SOWING AND REAPING

Because God does not visit summary punishment or sudden destruction, men become self-reliant, indifferent, careless, defiant. It is often asked, "If God is good, why does He many times let His children suffer adversity, while the wicked rejoice in worldly prosperity?" We should not question God's judgment or His justice; His pay-day may not be at the set time our weak wisdom may appoint, but the day of reckoning will surely come.

Good and evil are commingled in the world, and evil so closely counterfeits the good that we cannot always tell the wheat from the tares. But God knows the impure, imperfect and unholy, and the harvest day will come when He will gather the tares into bundles to burn them, but the good He will garner in the heavenly Kingdom.

The crowning time of fruitage is the harvest time. From the sowing until the reaping all care and thought

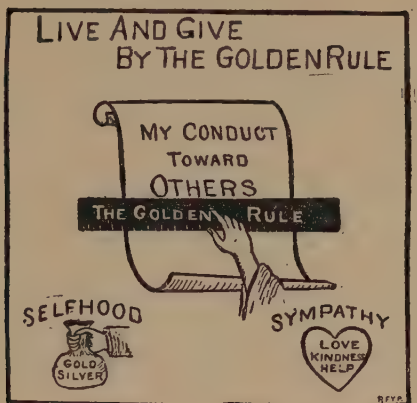
should be that the harvest be rich and fruitful. How shall it be with us in the harvest time of life? Shall we be gathered as the tares to be burned, or as the wheat, "Bound in the bundle of life with our Lord?" (1 Sam. 25:29).

Every day we are sowing thoughts, words and deeds for a reaping by and by. What shall the harvest be? We must reap what we sow. Some one has said, "Sow a thought and reap an act. Sow an act and reap a character. Sow a character and reap a destiny."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of a hand sowing seed in a field; make the field in the form of a heart. On one side of the heart represent some bundles of tares being burned, on the other side draw a sheaf of wheat ready for the garner.

COLOUR HINTS:—Make the hand *pink* tint, with *white* outline. Make the heart *light blue,* with *white* outline and letters. Make the tares *green* with dashes of *red* and *white.* Make the sheaf of wheat *orange* colour and *white.* Make the band around the sheaf of wheat *scarlet* with *white* outline, and make it in the form of a cross.

THE GOLDEN RULE



The story of Dives and Lazarus is an illustration of selfishness in its last analysis. Dives is not in torment and despair because he was rich and prosperous, but because of his self-centered life and neglect he failed to share his riches with Lazarus in his poverty. His lack of sympathy and help for the poor and needy, at his door, lost for him life's richest blessings for time and for eternity.

At the last the Lord will deny us drops of water if we fail to give crumbs of comfort to the needy ones about us, if it is in our power to help their necessities.

In this mercenary age we are so engrossed in living for self that we overlook our duty toward others. Homes may be brightened, hearts may be lightened, burdens be lifted if we were only more thoughtful of others. It is quite fashionable in these days to sneer at the "Golden Rule" with its Christ-spirit of "Do unto

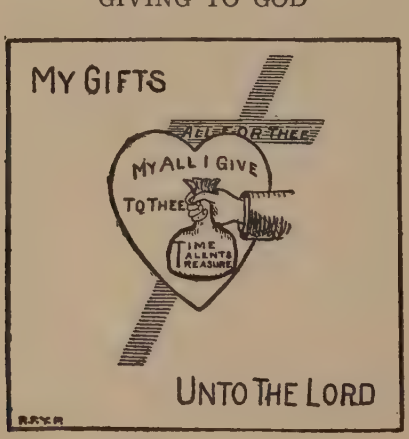
others," but this law is both divine in its origin and in its application to the problems of life.

This law truly operative will solve our industrial, commercial, social and civic problems and make real the ideal brotherhood of man.

Had Dives done for Lazarus what he would have had Lazarus do for Dives if their conditions on earth had been reversed, we would not have read the sad aftermath of his history.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of a scroll on which is written "My conduct toward others," then make a hand holding a measuring rod marked "The Golden Rule." Apply the lesson by urging the scholars to measure their living and giving by this Christian law of love and life.

GIVING TO GOD



Christianity began with a Gift. The epitome of John 3: 16 is the gospel of a great Gift.

The Giver—God.
The Gift—Jesus.
The Condition—A Believer.
The Reward—Everlasting Life.

Paul not only gave himself and his "All" to Christ, but inspired all whom he led to Christ to give their time and talents and treasure to advance the Master's Kingdom.

In his missionary zeal and propaganda he encouraged the newly formed churches to send generous gifts to support the home Church in Jerusalem. Paul taught the importance of Christian benevolence, the method of giving, the privilege of "hilarious" giving and the joys of the givers. In recognition and appreciation of the unspeakable Gift we must cultivate the grace of giving for Christ and the Church.

"I gave My life for thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might ransomed be
And quickened from the dead.
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou given for Me?"

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the outline of a heart bearing the words "My all I give to thee." Then draw a hand extending a gift marked "Time, Talents, Treasures," to represent our true gifts to God.

BURNING TO BLESS

It is the crowning glory of the Christian life to sacrifice self, if need be, to serve others for Jesus' sake.

In many ways Jesus taught His disciples the lesson of humility. Their misconceptions of His Kingdom led them to expect preferment and advancement to positions of special honour. He does not condemn His disciples for their unwise requests, but seeks to impress the truth that honour is the reward of service, and that exaltation comes through humility. "He that would be great among you, let him serve."

Learn a lesson from the lighted candle:

It is lighted to *shine*.

It shines as soon as lighted.

It burns to bless.

It sacrifices itself to serve others.

It shines as brightly in a lowly place as in a lofty one.

The little candle burns as brightly as the larger one.

Though soiled or broken it yet may shine for others.

The Christian disciple like his Master does not live to be ministered unto, but to minister. He lives to serve.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a lighted candle to indicate the shining Christian. For the candle-stand draw the outline of a crown, and impress the thought that the useful sacrificing, serving life is crowned.

THE HAND THAT HELPS AND HOLDS

Many sweet and precious promises are given for our consolation when the storms of sorrow and bereavement surge around us.

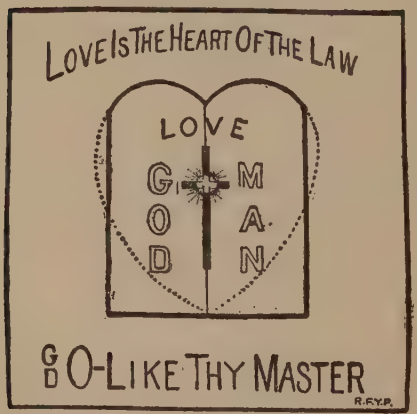
Paul's midnight Visitors in the hold of the ship in the midst of the storm brought not only comfort to the praying one, but safety for all who journeyed with him.

The Vision and the Voice brought the cheering assurance that all was well. Though the night was dark, and

the tempest raged, and no human help was near, God's promise came as a flood of light to bring hope and joy. "Fear not, Paul," God's promises fail not. In the conflicts of life to the children of God there come the comforting words, "Fear not, I am with thee." Though there should be shipwreck of our human plans, yet "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Though we should go down 'neath the tide, we would only fall into our heavenly Father's hand.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a heart, with both a rough and a calm sea. Above the waters write the word "PEACE." Beneath the heart draw a large hand holding the heart. Apply the lesson. In the sunshine or in the storm we are safe in God's hand.

THE LAW FOR LIFE



The Christian life must have *deeds* as well as *creeds*, and be voiced as loudly by the life as by the lip. Chris-

tianity demands duties as well as doctrines. The Tables of the Commandments taught duties to God and to man. The golden word of the decalogue, which runs through all the law, is LOVE.

Jesus teaches that we may have eternal life by keeping perfectly the law as given by God on Sinai, and by loving Him who is the embodiment and fulfillment of the law.

Possibly we have made mistakes in the interpretation of the parable of the Good Samaritan. We are taught by it to love our neighbour, and at once conclude that the poor unfortunate man who had fallen among thieves is the representative of the neighbour, and hence demands our love. It is true, we should sympathize with, pity, help, and love for Christ's sake all mankind, and especially the sick and unfortunate. But does not Jesus teach us that the neighbour's hand is the *helping* hand? If we are to love our neighbours then does He not teach that the one who is helped in his affliction should love him who has given him help? Clearly Jesus Christ is the Good Samaritan. We have fallen prey to the adversary; through sin we have been wounded and robbed. Formal religions and traditions will not avail in our extreme need; Jesus comes with comforting and complete assistance, giving us help and home and happiness. Mr. J. Howard Seal said several years ago that if we would "GO" like Jesus and "DO" like Jesus we would be GOD-LIKE.

$^{G}_{D}$O-LIKE

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of the Tables of the Ten Commandments. On one Table write the

word "GOD," and on the other write the word "MAN." Make the outline of the cross dividing the Law in two great sections. Around the Tables of the Law draw the outline of a heart. Apply the lesson that Love to God and man is the perfect law of the heart.

THE WORLD ILLUMINED

At Pentecost the Shekinah glory, the manifest presence of Jehovah in the world, left His dwelling place in the temple on Mt. Moriah and took up His abode with His disciples, the true followers of Jesus Christ. Henceforth they were to be the "temples of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 3:16, 17).

This lesson is the connecting link between the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ and the ministry of His disciples.

The command of our Lord Jesus to the disciples "Tarry ye at Jerusalem until ye be endued with power

from on high," was given to ALL His disciples; each was to be a witness and all must have the upper room experiences.

Those who received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost were: First, DISCIPLES, followers of the Lord Jesus; second, OBEDIENT, "Tarry till ye be endued with power"; third, UNITED, in one place, of one mind; fourth, PRAYERFUL, a prayer meeting ten days long; fifth, EXPECTANT, looking for the promised blessing.

To such disciples, the Holy Spirit came and sat upon each of them and they were all filled and fitted for service. The same condition of mind and heart among the followers of our Lord will bring a baptism of the Holy Spirit at any time.

Note the results of the bestowment of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were: 1. Bold in witnessing. 2. Powerful in speech. 3. Had a harvest of souls. 4. Every nation in the known world heard of Jesus through the ministry of the disciples within a generation.

This little sketch may suggest to us the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, making their lives both glorious and glorifying. While Jesus was incarnate, He was the Light of the world; but having gone before us to prepare our inheritance, He has sent the Holy Spirit, through whose power and presence we are to be the light of the world.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw an outline of the globe. Print in large letters the word "DISCIPLES." Over each letter place marks to indicate a light. Around the name "DISCIPLES" draw rays of light as a sunburst with the cross in outline. Apply the lesson that as each letter is lighted, so each Christian must be a shining light in

the world, and that the special office of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Christ to the world through His disciples.

PENTECOSTAL ARITHMETIC

Pentecostal blessings follow prayerful waiting on God and a faithful proclamation of His word. Men may preach philosophy, science, sociology, evolution, "the signs of the times," and a thousand other things, but there will never come a Pentecostal blessing to the world until the ministers of Jesus Christ proclaim with faithfulness "Repentance" from sin, and "Faith" in the only begotten Son of God.

The arithmetic of the early Church was very simple. It was *minus* self and *plus* Christ. One hundred and twenty disciples gave one day to the Lord's service and by their multiplied efforts three thousand souls were saved. The best rules for having a revival in the church are: 1. Get the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

2. Work for and expect immediate results in soul winning.

The people gladly heard when the disciples preached the simple practical Gospel with power and love. They: 1. "Heard the word." 2. "Repented." 3. "Believed." 4. "Confessed." 5. "Were baptized."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw two circles and place in one the word "Disciples" and in the other the word "Service," as indicated in the sketch. Between these circles place the sign of multiplication. Now write the word "Results," and place after it a cross bearing the inscription "Many souls saved." When, in a spiritual sense, we multiply the Christian disciples by Christian service, the results will always be souls added to the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE CHRISTIAN'S COMMISSION

The organization and establishment of the Kingdom

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of God on earth was preëminently the mission of Jesus Christ.

The laws of the Kingdom and the methods by which these laws were to be applied to the needs of men must also be given and exemplified by our Lord. But the development and perpetuity of the Kingdom must be by Spirit-filled and God-sent men.

For a time Jesus worked alone; God's one missionary in a sinning, sorrowing, dying world. He then placed the responsibility of sharing in His work of saving the world on the hearts of those whom He had redeemed and trained.

This lesson marks an important epoch in the redemption of the world. Henceforth every Christian has a duty to seek the salvation of others. The Divine commission has never been recalled. "Go ye into all the world." Go reach, teach, preach to EACH the love of God. Go evangelize, baptize, Christianize all men everywhere, and "Lo, I am with you alway." "So shall ye be my disciples."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a scroll bearing the words "Go, *Reach, Teach, Preach* to *Each,* the message of the Master." Back of the scroll draw a cross and emphasize the Saviour's promise to be with and help all who labour in His name.

LIGHTED TO SHINE

The lessons of the New Testament center around real Christian discipleship, in its beginnings, its training and its ministries.

We are saved to serve. If the Master had nothing for us to do He would take us to Himself as soon as we truly believe in Him. That He lets us tarry here is an assurance that we have a work to do for others.

We are not left in doubt as to our responsibilities: "Ye are the salt." "Ye are my witnesses." "Let your light shine." Go disciple others. "Come to me." "Go, for me." If ye love Me, serve Me.

The very name Christian means discipleship. We are lighted by the Spirit of God and commissioned to let our light so shine that we may help our Lord dispel the darkness of the world. Our highest and holiest expression of love for the Master is in the giving of our best service of heart and hand in His name.

"While the souls of men are dying,
And the Master calls for you,
Let none hear you idly saying,
'There is nothing I can do!'
Gladly take the task He gives you,
Let His work your pleasure be,
Answer quickly when He calleth,
'Here am I, O Lord, use me!'"

SUGGESTIONS:—Print the name CHRISTIAN. Let each letter bear a torch, represented as dispelling the darkness of the world. Draw a globe around the name "Christian." Beneath the globe draw an open book and a lighted lamp. On the book write, "If ye love me, serve me," emphasize the lessons "We are saved to save," "We are lighted to shine."

THE HEROES' CROWN

The history of every great and noble cause has its record of martyrdom. Stephen gave his life for the

truth and in testimony of the Christ, and was glorified through his sacrifice.

Because of his bold and fearless testimony to the person and ministry of Jesus, Stephen was arrested, tried, condemned and executed, yet in his death he was triumphant. The stones thrown by his executors may glisten in his diadem,

"Bright gems for His crown."

The first martyr for the Christian Church was

S—incere,
T—rue,
E—arnest,
P—ure,
H—umble,
E—nduring,
N—oble.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of some stones bearing the name S-T-E-P-H-E-N. Then draw rays about them so that the stones may appear as gems in a crown. If we shall endure the cross we shall secure the crown.

CHRIST FOR ALL

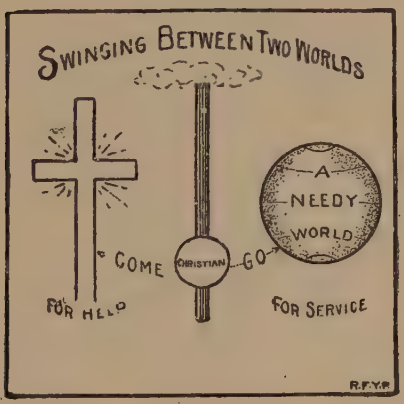
When God has a work to be done He not only prepares the field, but calls the workers. Cornelius the devout one, and his followers, longed for the Light. Peter, the Apostle, in a far-away city, was prepared by the Holy Spirit to bring to the waiting ones at Cæsarea the message of Salvation. He was startled by God's great object lesson, appealing to his heart through eye and ear. The Voice and the Vision led Peter to his vocation.

Peter saw that Jesus was a "Light to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel" and that the cross was the symbol of Salvation for *all* who would accept the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour. "And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of a large eye to represent the open vision of the Apostle. Then draw a globe, containing the crown in the center, and on the crown write the words, "LORD OF ALL." Empha-

size the lesson of Peter's vision, that he was to carry the Gospel of the Son of God to the Jews and Gentiles alike; that the Gospel of our Lord was for all the world.

THE CHRISTIAN PENDULUM



Christianity throbs with the missionary spirit. Paul was a great missionary, giving the Gospel of Jesus to Jews and Gentiles. With a limited vision he preached to the people in the homeland, but the vision and the Voice in the Macedonian call revealed his mission to give the Gospel to all the world.

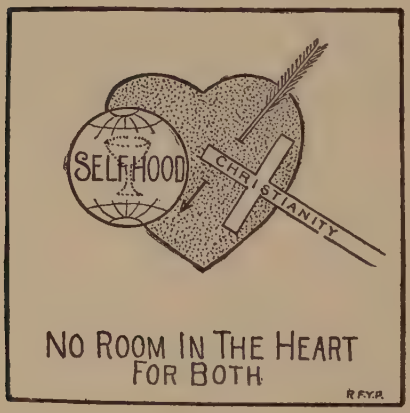
The great commission of our Lord in Mark 16:15 is "Go" Civilize, Evangelize, Baptize all men, in My name. Multitudes at home and abroad are still crying for the help which we are commissioned to give to them.

The Christian is a human pendulum, swinging between two worlds. We must heed the two great commands of the Master. "COME" to Me for help and

inspiration; "GO" in My name and help the needy ones of the world to know and love Me.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of a pendulum, then draw a cross with its message "COME" for help. Draw also a picture of a globe and note the Master's command "GO" serve the world for Me.

THE UNDIVIDED HEART



Many persons have tried to hold selfishness and worldliness in the heart, and at the same time hold Christ and Christianity. It cannot be done. A divided heart means death. There is not room in the heart for the world and Christ. If we take in the Great, Good, Generous, Gracious, Glorious, and Glorifying Saviour, there is no place left for selfhood and worldly living.

The awful judgment of Ananias and Sapphira is placed at the threshold of the Christian Church as a per-

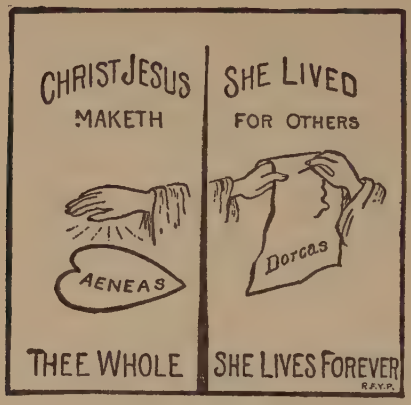
petual warning. Let us possess what we profess. Do not hold back part of the price. It is bad enough to give nothing to the Lord; it is worse to profess to give more to Him than we do give. Making gifts to God is a very solemn business. Beware, lest we profess to give to Him and hold back part of the gift.

Many people seek to give excuses for Ananias and Sapphira, but God knew all the circumstances and could find no excuse for their conduct. Lying and hypocrisy are twin evils which are very great in God's sight. These evils assail the Church from without and wound the Church from within.

Lying is perhaps the most subtle crime. The lying serpent beguiled our mother Eve in the Garden of Eden. "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord." God does not make a catalogue of falsehoods, nor discriminate as to the punishment for lying. "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth forever." Little lies and big lies, white lies and black lies, all are the same in God's sight. BEWARE of the venomous serpent of falsehood. It harms us far more than it hurts others.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first the outline of the heart. On one side draw a representation of the globe and write in it the word "Selfhood" in large letters. On the opposite side of the heart draw an outline of a cross, bearing the word "Christianity." Between the two words draw an arrow, marked "Death," as indicated in the sketch, and apply the lesson that a divided heart means death.

FAITH AND WORKS



The greatest argument for Christianity is the good it does in the world. Our lesson emphasizes three great truths: 1st. The Faithfulness of the Preacher. Peter the man of God went about doing good. 2d. The faith of Æneas, the palsied man who was healed. 3d. The good deeds of Dorcas, the woman of God, who did what she could.

It required great faith in God for the preacher to command Æneas, who had been confined to his bed for eight years, to arise and walk. It required great faith in the preacher, and in the preacher's God for the sick man to obey the command of Peter.

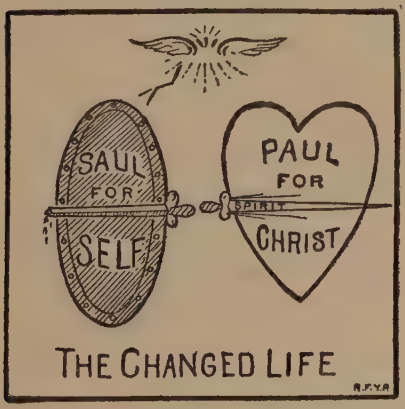
Dorcas ministered to the poor and wove her name into the fabric of her Christlike service. No work done for others "In His Name" will be forgotten. Dorcas lived for others, and her name will live forever, inspiring others to noble deeds.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first the picture of a heart bearing the name "Æneas." Above the heart draw an outstretched hand, representing the Helping Hand of the Disciple bringing blessings to the needy.

For the second lesson, draw the representation of a garment with a hand and needle making the stitches. On the garment write the name "Dorcas," and apply the lesson that deeds done for others in the name of the Master will make our names immortal.

How will you answer the Master's question, "What hast thou done for Me?"

THE TRANSFORMED LIFE



In the conversion of Saul of Tarsus we see what true conversion really means: a changed *name*, a changed *character*, a changed *life-work*, a changed *destiny*.

All may not have the same supernatural revelations which attended Paul's conversion, but all may be con-

verted who truly desire it, and who will be obedient to the revelation of truth to their hearts.

Saul of Tarsus lived for self and the glory of his people; but Paul the Apostle lived for Jesus Christ and the glory of God. The sword of slaughter was sheathed, and the sword of the Spirit became mighty in the hand of the soldier of the cross.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the outline of a Roman sword and shield, bearing the words "Saul lived for Self." Then draw a heart bearing the words "Paul lived for Christ," and across the heart make a sword marked "Spirit."

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

We are forcibly reminded of the emphasis which Paul would place upon the reading and study of the Word of God, as well as upon the preaching of His Word. Both at Thessalonica and Berea, Paul reasoned with the peo-

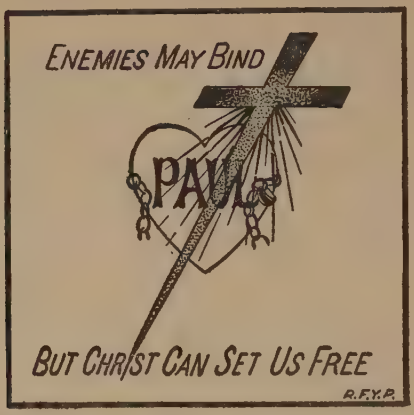
ple out of the Scriptures. His fearless and faithful preaching made many converts at Thessalonica, but it also aroused much opposition.

At Berea, the people with more culture and grace, received the words with readiness of mind and *searched the Scriptures* to verify the preacher's message. As the Scriptures are open and diligently searched and studied with an inquiring mind, Jesus will be revealed to the understanding and the heart.

In our life pilgrimage, we must have a greater light than human reason to guide us into all truth. Jesus taught us that the source of spiritual knowledge was the Word of God, hence His command, "Search the Scriptures," for "They testify of Me." Hence also the force of the Psalmist's words in the Golden Text, "Thy Word is a Lamp to my feet, and a Light to my path" (Ps. 119:105).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of an open Bible, with the rays of a lamp falling upon it. Draw also rays from the side of the blackboard falling upon the open page and emphasize the important lesson that we are to search and to study the Word of God by day and by night, making His Word the supreme rule and guide of our lives.

LIBERTY THROUGH CHRIST



Hasty judgment and bitter condemnation on mere suspicion of guilt may lead to serious consequences. The angry mob *supposed* that Paul was desecrating the Temple and they sought to punish him.

We learn that the Jews looked upon him as a **P**-retender, **A**-based, **U**-nholy, **L**-awless and bound him with cords and were ready to scourge him preparatory to even more cruel punishment. But God was greater than Paul's enemies. He looked upon him as **P**-ure, **A**-cceptable, **U**-pright, **L**-oving. He broke the bonds which Paul's enemies had placed upon him and set him free.

Often when the cords which our enemies place about us are drawn the tightest, God strikes the blow which sets us free. In the hour which seems the darkest, surrounded with bitter enemies, in bonds and in prison, Paul had a Visitor which brought him glad tidings. The Lord came to set the captive free, to deliver him from

his persecutors, and to help him to reach Rome, where he could preach Christ to the world.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a heart with bonds broken by the Sword of the Spirit, indicating God's method of delivering His chosen apostles from His persecutors; and suggesting that we, too, may be delivered from the power of evil and evil-doers by the help of the Lord.

THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR'S SHIELD

Paul's defense in the hour of danger was a reliance upon Christ and a free, full, frank, fearless statement of his faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the world's Saviour.

The opposition of Paul's enemies afforded him the opportunity to preach Jesus and the resurrection. The darts of the enemy burnish the shield which they smite. Fearless preachers and the faithful proclamation of the

truth is the need of the hour. By the presentation of the unabridged and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ by divinely commissioned men will the world be won to Christ.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a shield bearing the words of Paul's belief in Christ, the Messiah, the anointed of God.

SPREADING THE LIGHT

Athens was distinguished for its learning and art, and Corinth for its commerce and wealth, yet both cities were in the midnight of moral darkness. Paul fearlessly and faithfully preached to the people the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and brought many to the Light of the World.

During his missionary labours in Corinth Paul supported himself at his tentmaker's trade and found abundant opportunity for both public and private ministry for the Master. In a sentence we have the results

of many months of consecrated and concentrated labour. "Teaching the Word of God many believed and were baptized." To the Church at Corinth Paul wrote his matchless treatise on the resurrection and the Christian life.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print the name CORINTHIANS. Above each letter place the representation of a light. Then make a hand holding a torch, in the form of a cross, to indicate the true light from God which illumined the Corinthian believers.

CHRISTIAN COMFORT

In Paul's beautiful letter to the Thessalonian Church he rejoices in their faith in Christ, their endurance through much tribulation, their ministry of love, their hope through the resurrection, and their waiting and watching for the coming of the Lord Jesus, the King of Glory.

He bids them comfort their hearts in the precious assurance of their

C—onversion to Christ
O—bedience to the Word
M—odels to believers
F—aithfulness to duty
O—verflowing love
R—ighteousness of life
T—rusting till He come.

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words." Paul's letter is an inspiration, a *joy*, and a comfort for all believers in all ages.

Suggestions:—Print the word THESSALONIANS in large letters. Over this word place a scroll and write on it Paul's lessons of comfort for all believers in Christ to-day.

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES

To the beloved John, aged, exiled, but faithful and

true, was given a vision of the city of God and of gold, and of the King of grace and glory.

To him also was given a message to bear to the saints on earth to cheer them in affliction, strengthen them in conflict, inspire them to faithfulness and duty, and encourage them in hope.

The sevenfold message of the King embraced both the call to be perfect in character and in conduct, and assured the believing and obedient servants of the King the sevenfold blessings, which should come to them through peace, power, love, hope, courage, faithfulness and duty.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a scroll containing a crown, with its seven stars; from the stars draw rays bearing the several messages of the risen King to the churches of the world.

THE CALL OF LOVE

It is significant that God's great call to a sinning world

through all the centuries is COME TO ME. From the first call to the sinning ones in Eden, to the last Bible Call in Revelation God says "COME."

The occasion of a closing year, or the close of each day should lead us to emphasize the sacredness of time and the importance of devout meditation on the mistakes of the past and decisions for the future.

Lifting the curtain of the yesterdays we find many broken promises and undone duties. For all our failures and follies we are sad, and lifting our hearts and voices unto the merciful Father we cry, "Forgive, oh, forgive the sins of our hearts and the mistakes of our lives." For every joy received, blessing shared, privilege enjoyed, or service rendered for God and man we truly rejoice and are doubly glad.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the picture of an open Bible showing the last book, the last chapter, the last call of God. Then draw a scroll bearing an extended hand and the Master's gracious, loving invitation "COME." Accept the invitation. Decide this day to henceforth live for Christ.

XI

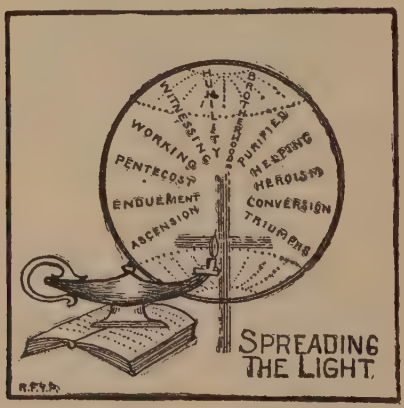
HINTS FOR CONDUCTING REVIEWS

THE accompanying blackboard sketch may suggest a rather novel but interesting method of conducting the Review Lesson. On page 160 of my recent book on Sunday-school lesson methods entitled "Pencil Points," published by Revell Company of New York, it is suggested that we use a window sash containing twelve panes of glass, in the teaching of the Review Lesson. Let each window-pane be neatly covered with a white sheet of paper (which may quickly be removed) on which is written the topics of the lesson and the Golden Text.

Have the scholars or selected classes give one or more of the thoughts in the lessons of the quarter as they are called in order. As the topics and hints are recited, the

slip of paper covering the window-pane may be removed, leaving a clear glass. Let each lesson be treated in a similar manner, removing the papers as the lesson is developed.

It will add to the interest if a landscape scene with pathway leading to a crown should be drawn and placed back of the window; so that as the papers are removed the picture which is thus uncovered may teach the central truth of the lesson teachings of the quarter. If unable to draw a landscape or secure a suitable picture, draw in large letters the name JESUS. If the object lesson of a real window cannot be used, the blackboard drawing will be of value in teaching the same truths.



The review of the lessons may be arranged in topics, and the key-thought of each lesson noted by classes or leader. The following arrangement of topics may prove helpful:

1. The Ascended Lord;
2. The Descended Spirit;
3. The Extended Power;
4. The Christian's Service;
5. Christian Witness;
6. Christian Humility;
7. Christian Brotherhood;
8. The Purified Church;
9. Christian Helpers;
10. Christian Heroism;
11. The Saving Truth;
12. The Church Triumphant.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of an open Bible with the lamp of Truth scattering its rays of light, giving to the world the history of the early Church as noted in the lesson topics.

In tracing the events of the lesson studies of the early chapters of Genesis we can liken the teachings to lights

along the path of life. The lessons have brought to us each week some gleam of truth to teach us of the works and ways and wisdom of God.

As we study His Word, we learn more of God and see His purposes and plans unfold in the creation and development of His world and His people.

It might be interesting in conducting the Review to draw a picture of a pathway leading to a crown. As the topic and Golden Text of each lesson are given by selected classes or scholars, place a gilt star on the pathway:

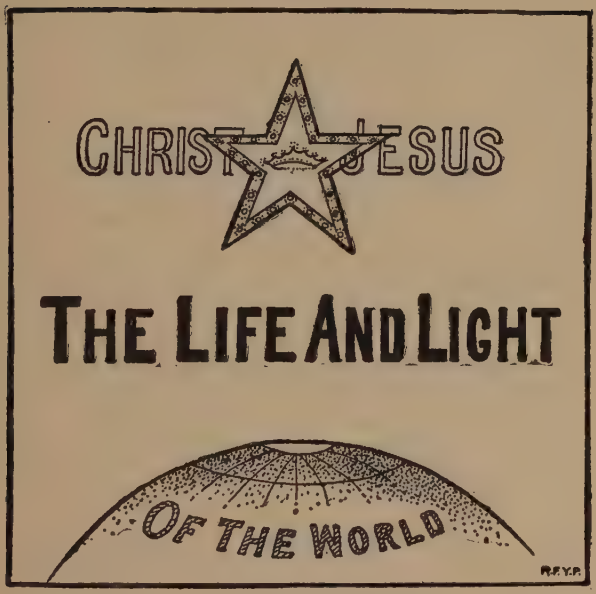
* 1. The Creation.
* 2. Man, the Crown of Creation.
* 3. Man's First Sin.
* 4. Cain and Abel.
* 5. The Flood.
* 6. God's Covenant with Noah.
* 7. The Call of Abram.
* 8. Abram and Lot.
* 9. God's Covenant with Abram.
* 10. The Destruction of Sodom.
* 11. Test of Abraham's Faith.
* 12. Isaac and Rebekah.

Arrange the stars in such a way that outline letters may be placed about them spelling the name GOD.

"Some lives shine out like beacons grand,
Some seem but candles small,
But if we truly shine for Him
The Lord hath need of all.
O may His spirit fill my soul
And lead me day by day,
That 'though unworthy, I shall be
A light along the way."

XII

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS



At Christmas time all the world is singing anthems of praise and exchanging gifts with loving friends. Multitudes of friendless ones at other times forgotten, or neglected, are remembered, helped and cheered. It is the one time in the year when we try to forget our trials, forgive the wrongs and sins of others toward us, and show the great glad heart of friendship and brotherhood which makes the world akin.

What does Christmas mean? Why should this be such a glad season for all mankind? Why is there such a desire to make others glad by the giving of gifts, home-comings, reunions, fraternal gatherings, and sharing of our heart-joys with others? For the real answer we look back through the centuries to the first Christmas morning when angels carolled the birth of Jesus and God gave a Saviour to the world. The song of the angel choir has set the world a-singing; the gift of God has inspired the world to giving.

There would have been no Christmas songs, nor Christmas joys, nor Christmas gifts if Jesus had not come. His advent has flooded the world with hope and peace. Into the lands where He has been made known there have come the largest liberty and life known to the thought of man. Into the homes where Jesus has been welcomed, there have come the love and peace which gold cannot buy. Into the hearts where Christ has entered there have come the pardon and love, joy and power which passeth understanding. Truly we may sing this day:

"Joy to the world, the Lord has come,
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the outline of a star and speak of the Star of Bethlehem marking the place of the Saviour's birth. Below the star draw a picture of a globe and speak of the unending joys which the coming of Jesus has brought to the world.

Christmas anthems and joy bells sound out the glad tidings of the Saviour's birth. Christmas time makes all the world akin. As I write, war's rude alarms startle the whole earth. Great nations are in terrible conflict and the blood of human brothers bathe many a battle-field. But throughout the earth there is a heart-cry for peace, a longing for such a tie of brotherhood as shall make war impossible. For this we devoutly pray.

Even amidst the din of war, the name of Christ sounds loudest in our ears. The kings of the earth implore His aid and millions the wide world over pray for eternal peace. Without Him there can be no peace on earth or good will toward men. Without Christ there can be no hallowed songs, no real joy bells, no kinship

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of the nations, no gifts of love, no gladdened hearts, no happy homes.

God grant that this Christmas time the love and light of Jesus shall fill the whole earth. May the starlight of Bethlehem flood the world and every tongue and nation hail the Christ as "Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

With rapturous delight may the whole world sing this day in tune with the angel choirs:

"Joy to the world, the Lord has come,
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing."

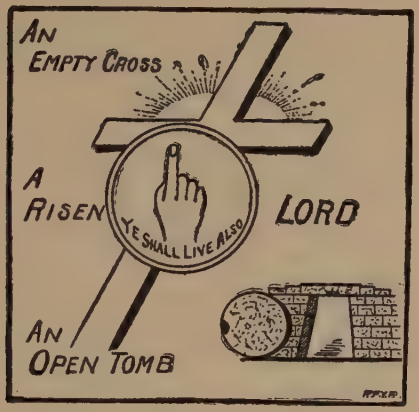
SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a large picture of a globe in shadow. Then in large letters of white print the name JESUS. Now draw a large star and print on each point of the star the names of the promised Messiah, as given in Isaiah. In the center of the star draw a crown and write on the crown "JESUS MY KING."

JOY TO THE WORLD
LET EARTH
JESUS
RECEIVE HER KING
THE LORD HAS COME
R.F.Y.P.

XIII

EASTER LESSONS

THE EASTER MESSAGE



In the chiming of Easter bells and the carolling of Easter anthems, we are apt to forget the divine tragedy of the cross. Why an empty cross, and an open tomb to-day? This radiant morn was preceded by an awful night of sin: but the carol of the empty cross, and open tomb, and Risen Lord is the Victor's Song of Triumph over sin and death through Christ, our Lord and King.

The passing of our lesson study from the crucifixion to the resurrection of our Lord is a glad transition from darkness to dawn, from gloom to glory.

The curtain of the world's infamy fell when Jesus cried from the cross "It is finished," and sin had slain the Saviour of the world. But to-day the world stands reverently at the empty tomb of our risen Lord, whose triumphant power breaks the chains of death, and He comes forth the living Christ—the King of kings and

Lord of lords. "He ever liveth to make intercession for us" (Heb. 7:25).

From the open tomb of Jesus Christ there arises the religion of the cross with a song for every lip, a joy for every heart, and a hope for every life.

The plan of redemption embraces:

1st. The incarnation of the Son of God.

2d. His gospel of pardon and peace.

3d. His atonement for sin.

4th. His resurrection from the dead, as the divine seal to the mission and ministry, the purpose and power of Jesus Christ.

5th. His ascension to the throne of God to be our intercessor and mediator: "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the representation of an open tomb with the stone rolled away. Above this draw a hand with index finger pointing upward. Back of the hand draw an empty cross. Hold not a crucifix before the world's vision, but rather an empty cross with its story of the living, glorified Redeemer.

It was a sad, dark night in the world's history when sin knocked at the door of the human heart and was welcomed in, but the darkest hour known to the thought of man was when the world rejected the Saviour from sin, and spurned the mercy and the love of God, who provided a ransom from sin.

It was a bright hour in the world's history when the angels carolled their first Christmas anthem and the Babe of Bethlehem was born; but still brighter shone the day when the crucified Christ burst the bonds of His tomb and came forth the glorified, risen Redeemer.

Every Sunday of the year is an Easter day, but in a special manner we join in the hallowed worship on this anniversary day of our Lord's Resurrection, and commemorate in song and story the glorious hope that in Him we too shall have life forevermore.

This Easter day the Christian world stands triumphant at the open tomb of Jesus of Nazareth and carols its songs of hope and praise.

Many things in nature suggest the lessons of an after

life. The day-dawn is earth's resurrection from the night; the butterfly rises from its chrysalis grave, and the lily blooms from its tomb. The daybreak, the springtime, the bursting bud, the opening egg, the redeemed life, are pæans of victory of life from the tomb.

Though we cannot understand the process any more than we can comprehend the transformation of the worm-life to wing-life, yet we rejoice in the promise and the glorious hope of life eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord. "Behold, I show you a mystery . . . He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

"Christ, the Lord, is risen to-day;
Sons of men and angels say:
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

"Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ hath burst the gates of hell;
Death in vain forbids Him rise,
Christ hath opened Paradise."

SUGGESTIONS:—Print the words, "CHRIST IS RISEN;" in the midst of the words draw a crown, having rays of light in the form of a cross. In addition to this it would be interesting if nature's Easter lessons might be indicated by the bird and the eggs, the worm and the butterfly, the seed and the grain, the blooming plant, etc., as suggested by the little drawings in the above sketch.

XIV

TEMPERANCE TOPICS

No monster has ever filled the world with more sadness than the demon of strong drink. In every age and in every land it has left its blight on civilization, and has left its curse upon all people who have placed themselves under its power. The greatest men of all the world have, with united voice, proclaimed the evils of intemperance and sought to win men from the intoxicating cup. Volumes have been written on its evils, but never a true word has been spoken in its favour.

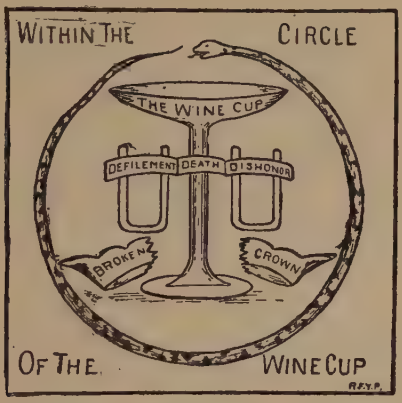
Truly when all the wisest men of the world, representing the greatest scholars, most distinguished physicians, eminent jurists, honoured statesmen, and successful business men, charge the liquor traffic with being the most fruitful source of crime, we ought to work and pray and vote to rid the land of the awful curse. It robs us of

Health
Happiness
Honour
Home
Heaven.

Place a triangular piece of glass in the sunlight and each beam of sunlight will be separated into a band of beautiful rainbow colours. Now if the wine cup be used as the prism and a beautiful, innocent life be passed through its contents, we see the sad, dark picture of a once clean, pure life, broken into fragments by the cup which inebriates.

Suggestions:—Draw the representation of a liquor flask marked "Saloon." Represent the dragon of intemperance and the saloon as being destroyed by the power of the cross. God grant the day when the Chris-

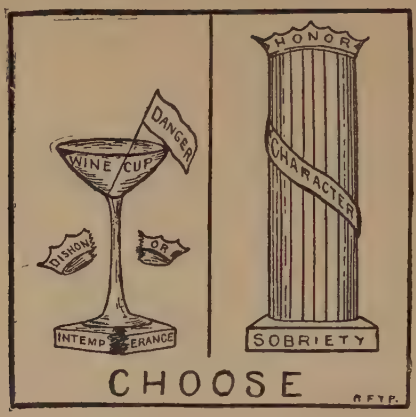
tian hosts of every name shall shatter the cruse and slay the curse of intemperance.



All men know that intemperance is a curse. The records of the courts in all lands prove that intemperance is a most fruitful source of crime.

The wine cup is circumscribed by the serpent. Within its circle we behold the galling yoke of Defilement, Disease, Debt, Dishonour and Death of both body and soul. Shattered crowns of manhood and honour and great achievement strew the pathway of those who are ensnared by strong drink.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a wine cup. Around it draw a circle made to represent a serpent. Within the circle make a yoke on which write the words "Defilement," "Dishonour," "Death." Draw also a broken crown in which may be written "Manhood." Shun the wine cup. Come not within the circle of its debasing and destroying influence.



The warning of the Prophet Amos to the people long centuries ago is admirably fitted to the present time and condition of society. The people were extravagant, thoughtful, sensuous, living for pleasure, debased through the wine cup. The prosperity of the people was a snare, and vices flourished. Women as well as men were enslaved by strong drink and debauched. Amos, the mouthpiece of God, sounds a warning from the Throne. Beware! "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion;" that have forgotten God. Woe to them that prostitute wealth and position to the base gratification of carnal desires, who live self-centered lives; who have no interest in the uplift of their fellow-men.. The tremendous appeal of Amos is that men will live clean lives and be true to God. Sin enslaves—Samson found that there was:

A Binding power of Sin,
Blinding power of Sin,
Grinding power of Sin.

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw first a wine cup and speak of how it breaks the crown of honour. Weak and crumbling is the base on which it rests. A railroad engineer was addicted to drink and about to be discharged. His wife, broken-hearted, appealed to him to give up the habit, and one day placed a little red flag in his drinking cup. The flag meant "danger" to him and he immediately signed the pledge and became a sober man and a true Christian. In contrast to the crumbling base marked "intemperance" draw a firm foundation marked "SOBRIETY" and build on it a strong column marked "character."

In all the history of nations and of men, it is doubtful if there was a period when there was so much real temperance sentiment in the world as at the present time.

In our own country the question of temperance is demanding the attention of all classes of people. Several

of the states have made liquor-making and selling a crime, and the United States has made prohibition an important fact in the constitution.

The present awakening and nation-wide interest in the temperance movement has been due in large measure to the temperance instruction, in both day school and Sunday schools. The terrible effects of this awful curse have never been fully estimated. There has been a revival of the temperance pledge signing, and scientific instruction on the results of the drink habit.

The theme of the lesson recalls the starting lines on sowing and reaping, cause and effect, which have been taught to many thousands of young and old during recent years. In the Young People's Temple at Ocean Grove, N. J., some years ago, Rev. Chas. H. Yatman, the leader of the Young People's meeting, had a large sign placed in the temple, bearing the words:

"Sow a thought, reap an act; sow an act, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny." As effect follows cause, so truly does reaping follow sowing. Be careful what you sow, if you care for what you would reap.

SUGGESTIONS:—Print in large letters on the blackboard the words SOW—REAP. Then write the words as given in the above sketch, especially make the application to the temperance lesson of the day.

One of the greatest, noblest, strongest characters of Old Testament history is Daniel. The influence of his firm stand for purity, truth and righteousness of life has moulded the lives of multitudes of young and old through the passing centuries.

It was not easy for Daniel to refuse to eat from the king's table, and stand alone in opposition to the will of the monarch who was planning to exalt him. But right is might and one with God is greater than the power of kings.

Dare to say "Yes" to every good impulse of your life. Dare to say "No" to every prompting of evil. When I was a lad, my dear father used often to say, "My son, learn to say 'No.'" I thought it strange I should have to learn to say such a little word. But as the years rolled by and my young life was so easily led into wrong paths, I understood father's kind counsel. When temptation comes it is hard to say "No." It requires all our courage, all our energies, all our powers,

backed by the grace of God to say "No," and mean it as Daniel did.

Many a noble life would have been spared to the world, if heed had been given to that earnest hymn of P. P. Bliss, "Dare to Be a Daniel."

"Many mighty men are lost
Daring not to stand,
Who for God had been a host
By joining Daniel's band.
Dare to be a Daniel!
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known."

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw the outline of a table bearing fruits and wines. Then draw a heart, and within the heart make a hand emptying the wine glass, to indicate Daniel's courage in resisting temptation to defile himself with the harmful things from the king's table. Around the heart and table draw the picture of a globe and speak of the temperance lesson for all the world.

XV

THE UNSPOTTED FLAG

It is eminently fitting that we should teach our young people that Christian ideals are not incompatible with our lofty American patriotism. Jesus was the ideal patriot. He held that supreme duty to God was not incompatible with the highest duty to the State.

The fundamental principle of the separation of Church and State has made possible our great Republic, with patriotic devotion to country and religious toleration for all men to worship God according to the dictates of individual conscience. Liberty is not license. The rights of each end where the rights of others begin. Patriotism means in the highest sense devotion to country. It is not enough to hurrah for the flag or to defend it against the

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assaults of a common enemy. It is more patriotic to keep the flag unspotted. Peace has its victories as much as war, and it is quite as patriotic to live to bring honour to the nation as to die on the field of battle.

It is patriotic to be true, good, useful, honest, manly. SELFISHNESS puts a blot on the flag. The man who lives for himself, or for what he can get from others, rather than for what he can do for others is neither a patriot nor a Christian. INTEMPERANCE puts a blot on the flag. One place where the flag of our country should not be allowed to float is over the places where intoxicating liquor is sold. NEGLECT of duty puts a blot on "Old Glory." Failure to secure an education when possible; neglect to learn a trade or in some way fit one's self to earn an honest living; failure to make our lives brighter, homes happier or the community better is unpatriotic. Christianity fosters the best citizenship, and the best Christians are in the highest sense patriotic.

When the Pharisees made a league with the Herodians to ensnare Jesus on political questions He gave the significant statement for the discharge of our civic and religious duties, "Render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's; and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17).

SUGGESTIONS:—Draw a picture of a flag. Speak of the blots which men put upon the flag:

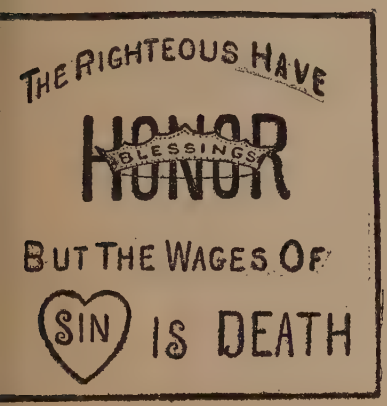
S—elfishness
I—ntemperance
N—eglect of duty.

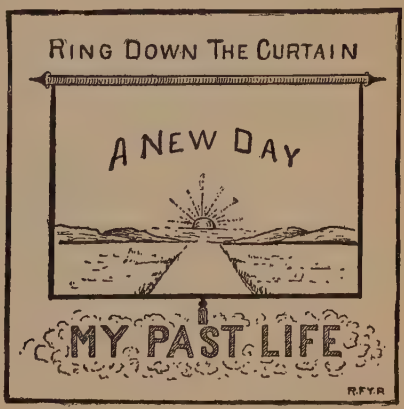
Erase these letters which spell SIN and place on the flag a cross which speaks its sublime lesson of love for Christ and devotion to country.

XVI

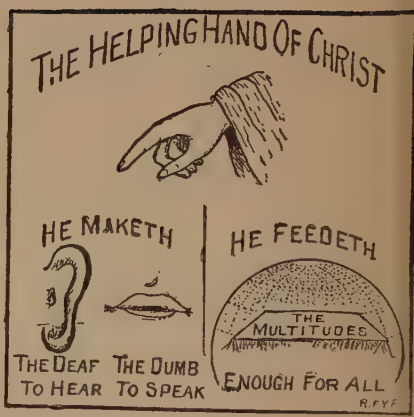
MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES

THE BOAST OF THE WINE CUP
I BLIGHT THE PRESENT
I STAND FOR ALL THAT IS WORST IN MANHOOD MORALS BUSINESS POLITICS CIVILIZATION
I BLAST THE FUTURE
WHY SHALL IT LONGER EXIST?
R.F.Y.P.



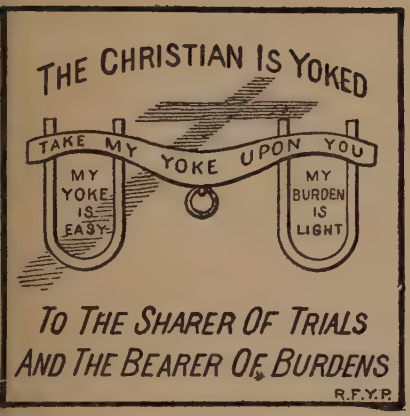


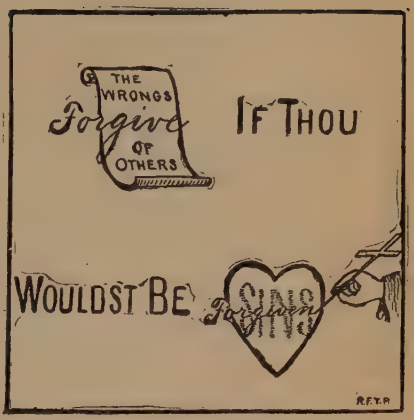
IT IS I BE NOT AFRAID.
HE MAKETH THE STORM A CALM
R.F.Y.P.


THE HELPING HAND OF CHRIST
HE MAKETH
THE DEAF THE DUMB
TO HEAR TO SPEAK
HE FEEDETH
THE MULTITUDES
ENOUGH FOR ALL
R.F.Y.P.

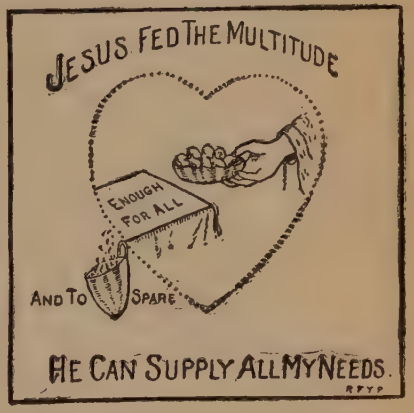
OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD
GOOD
EVIL
LOVE
R.F.Y.P.

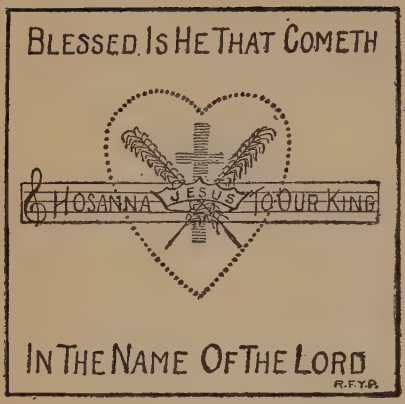
RUM'S OFFERING TO THE WORLD
XXX QUALITY
SORROW
BY AUTHORITY
ARM OF DEVIL
AN OPEN SECRET
R.F.Y.P.


THE CHRISTIAN IS YOKED
TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU
MY YOKE IS EASY
MY BURDEN IS LIGHT
TO THE SHARER OF TRIALS
AND THE BEARER OF BURDENS
R.F.Y.P.


THE WRONGS
Forgive
OF OTHERS
IF THOU
WOULDST BE
SINLESS
R.F.Y.P.

HAVE EVERY DUTY DONE
THE NEW YEAR
THE OLD YEAR
BEFORE THE OLD YEAR ENDS
R.F.Y.P.


JESUS FED THE MULTITUDE
ENOUGH FOR ALL
AND TO SPARE
HE CAN SUPPLY ALL MY NEEDS.
R.F.Y.P.

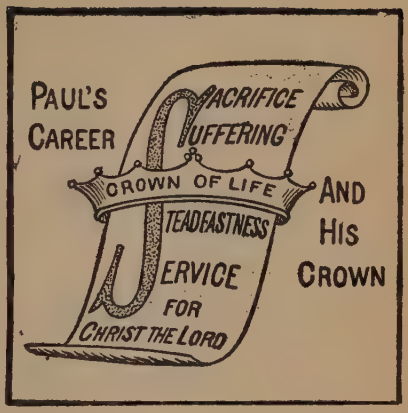

BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH
HOSANNA
JESUS
TO OUR KING
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD
R.F.Y.P.

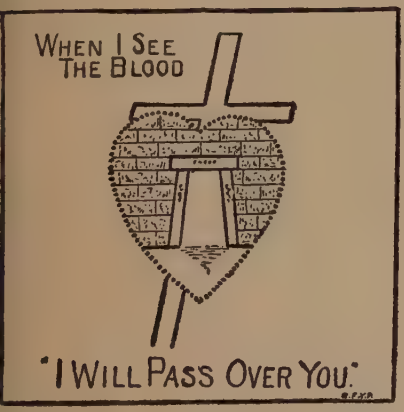
PERMIT
NO SHAMS IN ALMS
NO SELFHOOD IN SERVING
PRIDE
LORD'S TREASURY
SELF
GIVE AND LIVE UNTO THE LORD
R.F.Y.P.

THE WAY TO THE CROWN
OBEDIENCE
R.F.Y.P.

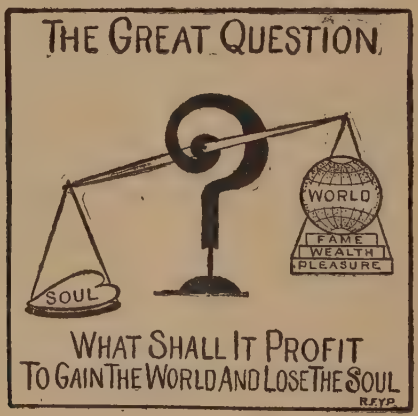
JESUS HAS FORGIVEN OTHERS
ASK HIM
TO TAKE
AWAY THY
SINS
R.F.Y.P.

HEARTS AND HANDS
IN FELLOWSHIP
AND SERVICE
R.F.Y.P.


PAUL'S
CAREER
SACRIFICE
SUFFERING
CROWN OF LIFE
STEADFASTNESS
SERVICE
FOR
CHRIST THE LORD
AND
HIS
CROWN


WHEN I SEE
THE BLOOD
"I WILL PASS OVER YOU."
R.F.Y.P.

THE NARROW WAY
THE WAY
TO THE CROWN
IS THE WAY
OF THE CROSS
LEAVE
THY
SIN
AND
ENTER IN.
R.F.Y.P.



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